POSTOPERATIVE PAIN MANAGEMENT AND PAIN REFERRED BY ADULT PATIENTS
24 HOURS AFTER SURGERY AND ONE MONTH AFTER DISCHARGE
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OBJECTIVE
To describe postoperative pain treatment, proportion of patients who referred moderate-severe pain 24 hours after surgery and one month after discharge. We also present the number of visits to the primary care physician, the emergency room (ER) or re-admissions related to postoperative pain during the first month after surgery.

CONCLUSIONS
- Most patients were prescribed a NSAID, acetaminophen or dipyrene as around-the-clock and a strong opioid as a rescue if more pain.
- Rescue medication was under-prescribed and under-administered, which may partially explain the insufficient pain control within the first month after discharge.

METHODS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of study</th>
<th>Inclusion period</th>
<th>Eligible criteria</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>observational, descriptive, prospective</td>
<td>February – September 2018</td>
<td>Adult patients, who were admitted in the surgery departments 24 h after surgery</td>
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RESULTS

N= 133 patients

- Around-the-clock treatment
  - 117 patients were prescribed an analgesic as around-the-clock.
  - 98 of them were prescribed acetaminophen, dipyrene or a NSAID.

- Type of rescue medication
  - 38.8% of them were prescribed a potent opioid
  - 28.6%: a weak opioid
  - 7.1%: another non-opioid drug

- Omission of rescue medication
  - 24.1% were not prescribed any drug as a rescue.

- 24 h after surgery
  - 63.9% reported moderate-severe pain within 24 hours after surgery.
  - 35.3% of them were administered one or more rescue medication

- 30 days after discharge
  - 23.3% reported moderate-severe pain within 30 days after discharge.

- 6.0% attended the primary care physician consult due to postoperative pain during the first month

- 2 patients (1.5%) went to the ER and/or were readmitted due to postoperative pain

Health-system resources after discharge