CASE REPORT: AN INTER-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO SICKLE CELL CRISIS OPIOID PAIN MANAGEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION

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POSTER ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND:
Patients with sickle cell disease (SCD) sometimes experience severe painful attacks known as sickle cell crises or vaso-occlusive crisis (VOC). Each VOC varies in location of pain, intensity and duration. Effective pain management, often with the use of opioids, is at the cornerstone of the care for these patients. Most patients have specific treatment regimens best tailored to their needs.

CASE:
A 45-year-old female with SCD was admitted to a medicine unit in a community hospital with VOC. She had a history of intolerance to most opioids, except for intravenous (IV) fentanyl, which had been effective in managing her pain during a previous episode.

There are administration restrictions associated with IV fentanyl at this hospital which were not clearly defined in the IV monograph. It was observed that there was a knowledge deficit within the healthcare team pertaining to the ordering and administration of fentanyl. The significant delay in the delivery of pain management led to decreased patient and family satisfaction and increased patient suffering.

RESOLUTION:
A Sickle Cell Inter-Disciplinary Working Group was created to perform a root-cause analysis. The team worked in collaboration with experts in SCD management and the patient as an advisor. The team reviewed and updated the Sickle Cell Crisis Order Set to reflect evidence-based practice. The fentanyl IV monograph was also updated to create more clarity for all staff. The team recently presented this case in Grand Rounds and is working towards conducting hospital-wide education sessions on the management of Sickle Cell Crises.

OTHER AUTHORS
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