

# Patients report similar responses in pain and quality of life between tapentadol and other opioids in complex chronic pain

## Assessing Patient Reported Outcomes of Tapentadol Therapy in Complex Chronic Pain Conditions

Gemma Meredith<sup>1</sup>, Bradley Menz<sup>1,2</sup>, Amelia Searle<sup>2,3</sup>, Jacinta Johnson<sup>1,4</sup>, Cameron Phillips<sup>1,2,4</sup>, Medhat Wahba<sup>3,5</sup>

1.Division of Pharmacy, Southern Adelaide Local Health Network, Flinders Medical Centre, South Australia

2.College of Medicine and Public Health, Flinders University, South Australia

3.Chronic Pain Unit, Southern Adelaide Local Health Network, Flinders Medical Centre, South Australia

4.UniSA Clinical and Health Sciences, University of South Australia, South Australia

### Introduction

- Tapentadol offers mixed analgesia via noradrenaline inhibition and mu-receptor agonism<sup>1</sup>.
- Few studies have assessed patient-reported outcome measures for patients with complex chronic pain in outpatient clinics.
- This study evaluated:
  - Patient-reported efficacy of tapentadol.
  - Tapentadol pain and quality of life efficacy when compared with other opioids.

### Method

- A 43-question survey captured seven-point patient global impression of change (PGIC) scales of pain and quality of life.
- Positive (favourable) responses in pain and quality of life were defined as PGIC ratings of 'much improved' or 'very much improved'.
- Patients were asked to compare efficacy in reducing pain between tapentadol and other previously trailed opioids (where applicable).
- Positive quality of life responses were compared among patients who reported positive pain responses to tapentadol and other opioids (including those who had not tried tapentadol) using chi-square analysis.

### Results

- Of the 762 patients commencing the survey, 262 patients had used tapentadol.
- Reported positive response to tapentadol: 75/262 (29%) pain; 54/262 (21%) quality of life (Figure 1)
- In patients who tried both tapentadol and other opioids, most found their analgesia similar (Figure 2)
- Among the patients reporting a positive response to pain with tapentadol or other opioids, similar positive responses for quality of life were reported between the groups: Tapentadol 50/75 (67%) and other opioids 176/252 (70%),  $P = 0.7$ .

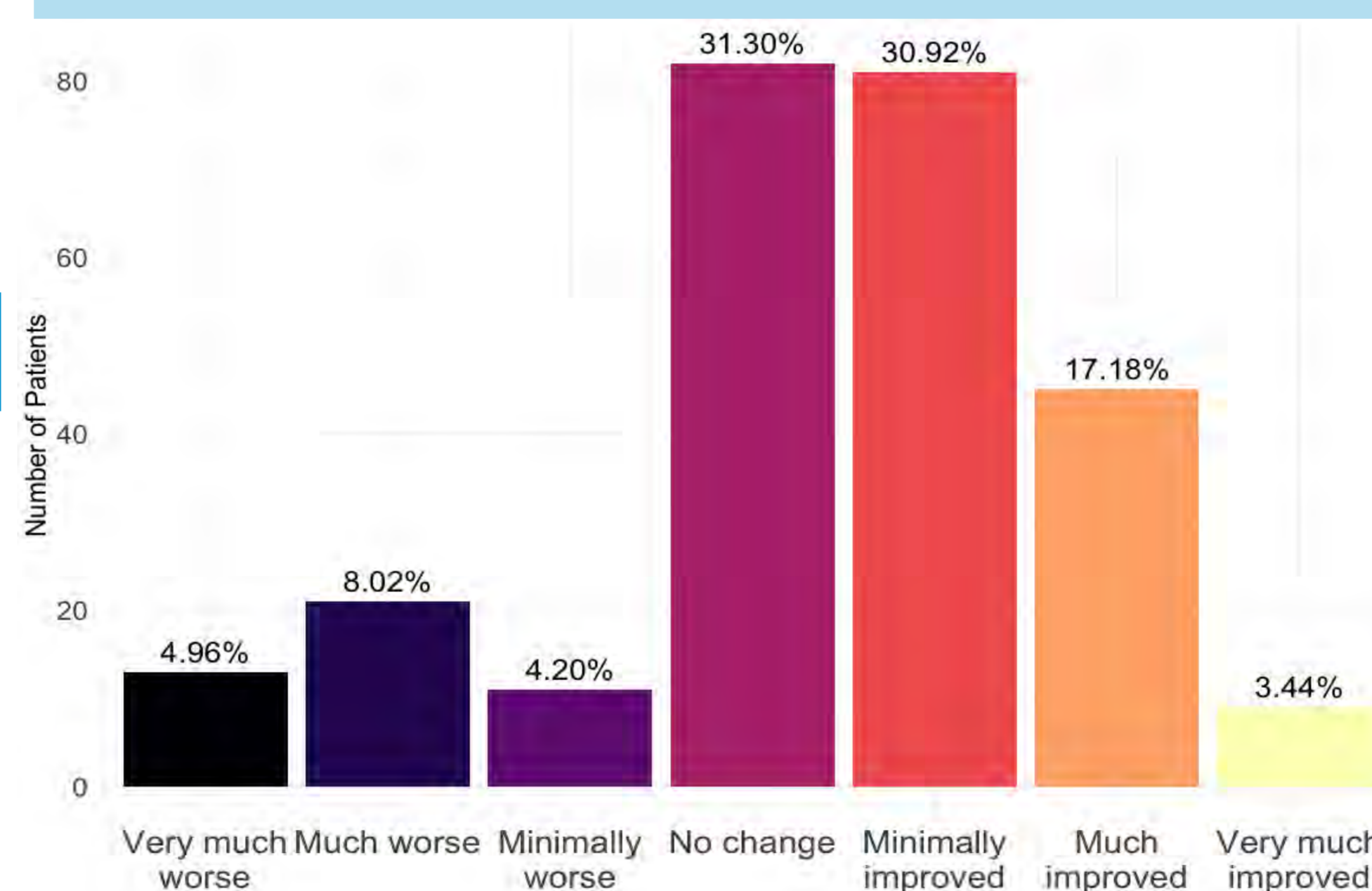


Figure 1: Patient reported global impression of change (quality of life) with tapentadol

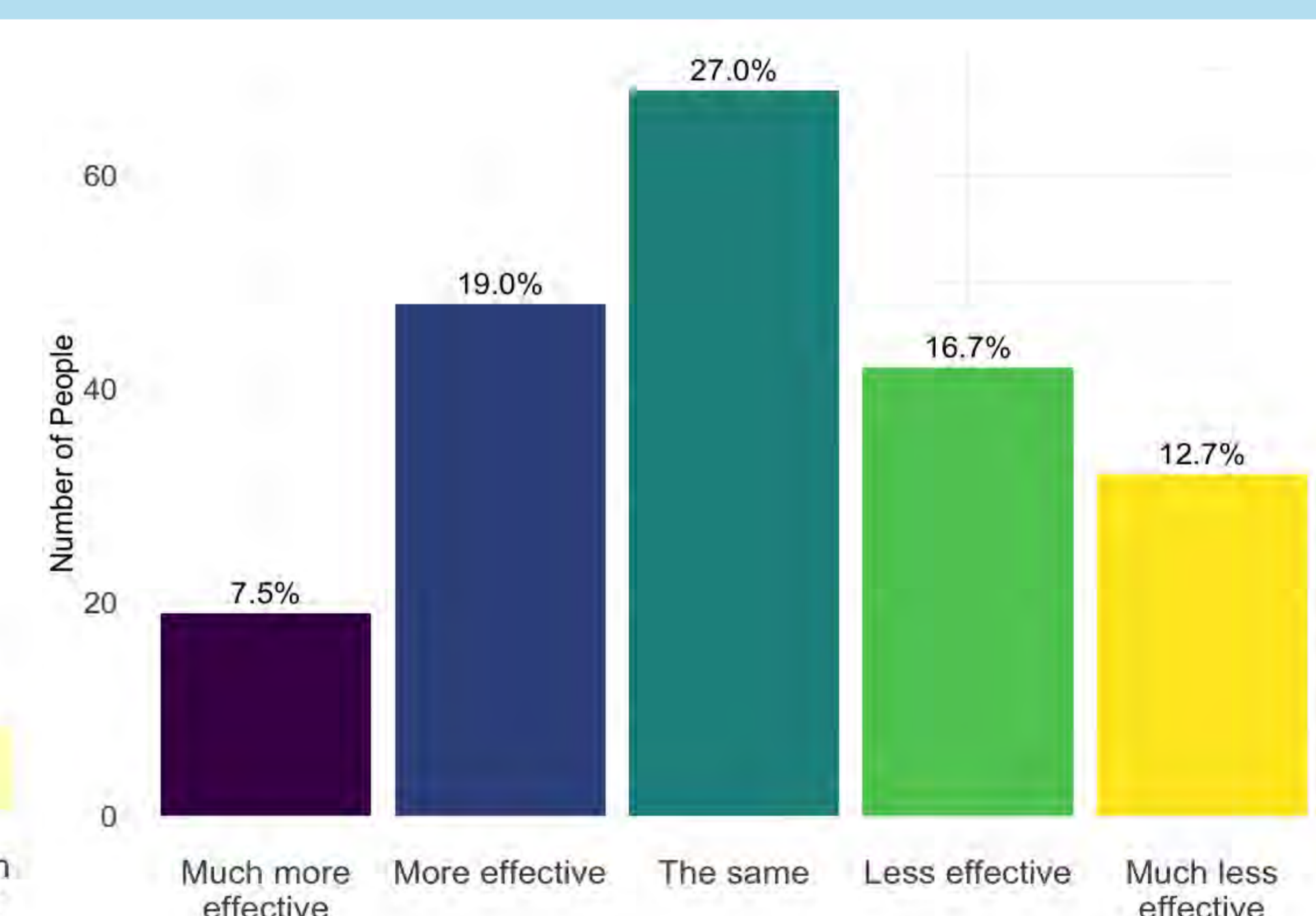


Figure 2: Patient comparison for pain between tapentadol and other trailed opioids

### Discussion

- The results might be influenced by the reliance on patients' ability to self-report in the survey and by differing completion rates between tapentadol and other opioid groups.
- The results appear non-inferior between tapentadol and other opioids, consistent with existing literature<sup>2</sup>.

### Conclusion

- In our study of patients with complex chronic pain, approximately 30% reported analgesic benefit with tapentadol. Similar improved quality of life and analgesia were observed between tapentadol and other opioids.

### References

- Singh, D., Nag, K., Shetti, A., and Krishnaveni, N. 2013. 'Tapentadol hydrochloride: A novel analgesic'. *Saudi Journal of Anaesthesia*, vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 322-326, viewed 23 June 2023. <<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3757808/>>.
- Gálvez, R., Schäfer, M., Hans, G., Falke, D. and Steigerwald, I. 2013. 'Tapentadol Prolonged Release Versus Strong Opioids for Severe, Chronic Low Back Pain: Results of an Open-Label, Phase 3b Study'. *Advances in Therapy*, vol. 30, pp. 229-259, viewed 23 June 2023. <<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12325-013-0015-6>>.

For more information

Gemma Meredith  
Intern Pharmacist  
Gemma.Meredith@sa.gov.au



<https://au.linkedin.com/in/gemma-meredith>



<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Bradley-Menz>

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jacinta-Johnson>



Government of South Australia  
SA Health  
SA Pharmacy