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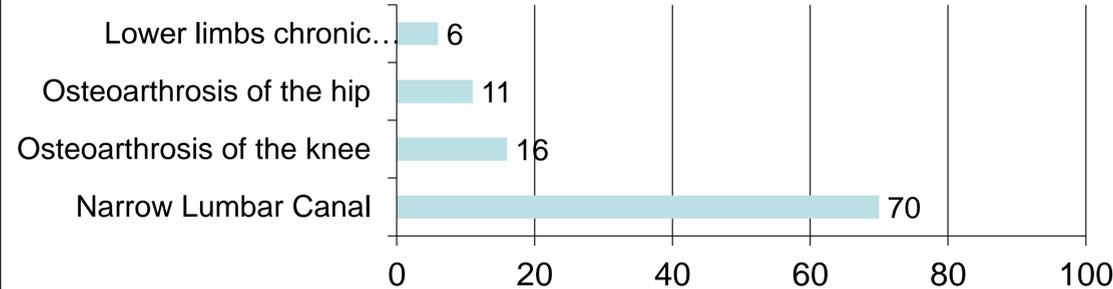
## Aim of Investigation

The use of opioids is increasingly common and is increasing evidence in chronic non-cancer pain. Methadone, a synthetic strong opioid, has certain characteristics that distinguish it from other opioids (long half life, long interdosing, inhibition of serotonin reuptake, NMDA receptor blockade, lower price). The objective is to evaluate the results of the use of Methadone in an elderly population with severe chronic non-cancer pain, running under a Strong Opioid Program.

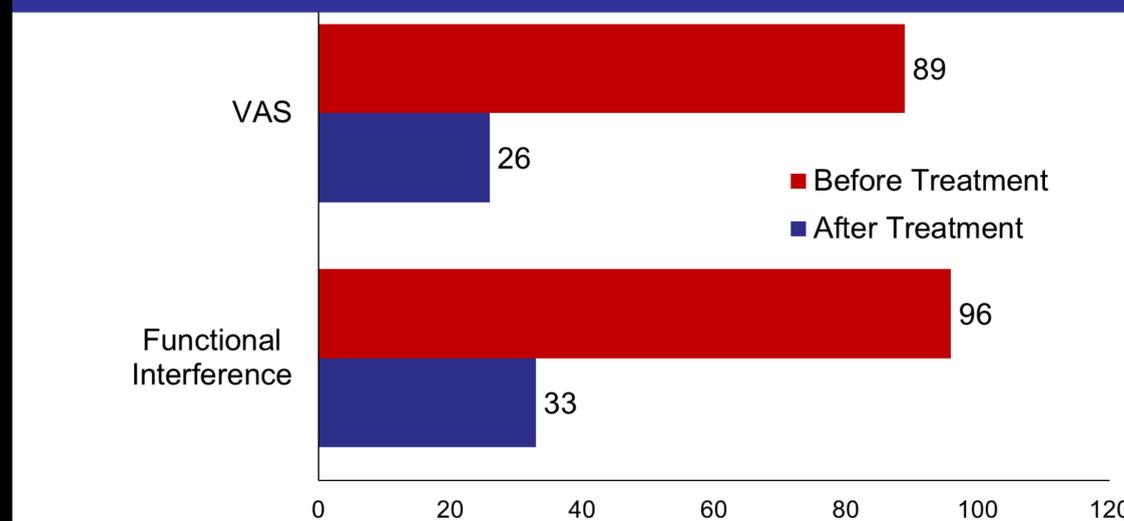
## Methods

We treated 728 patients with severe chronic non-cancer pain with methadone 2% solution. Patients who had no family supervision or permanent caregiver and those patients who had dementia or psychiatric disorders and comorbidity were excluded. Patients were followed up by phone every 48 hs during the first week and weekly evaluations during the first month. We evaluated pain intensity with visual analog scale (VAS), functional interference (with VAS), the overall patient impression of change (PGIC) and the presence of adverse effects.

## Severe Chronic Non-Cancer Pain Condition



## Pain management with 9 (3-24) mg/day of Methadone



## References

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## Results

728 patients with severe chronic non-cancer pain, 560 women (77 %) and 168 men (23 %), with an average age of 78 years old (65-96). Narrow Lumbar Canal 510 (70 %), Osteoarthritis of the knee 116 (16 %), Osteoarthritis of the hip 80 (11 %), lower limbs chronic wounds 44 (6 %). We used mean doses of 9 mg/day (3-24), featuring intensity of pain with VAS at baseline of 89 (75-100) and one month after treatment VAS 26 (18-33). Functional interference at baseline of 96 (74-100) and a month after treatment 33 (31-46), PGIC 'much better'. Adverse effects were constipation 218 (30 %), drowsiness 102 (14 %), dizziness 22 (3 %), skin allergy 7 (1 %). Discontinuations 44 (6 %), due to drowsiness, constipation, and lack of support for treatment by their general practitioners.

## Conclusions

Methadone is a synthetic strong opioid has specific characteristics that differentiate it from the rest and make it a safe alternative in the treatment of severe chronic non-cancer pain in elderly patient in a monitoring program.