Coenzyme Q10 for Migraine Prophylaxis

BY TIMOTHY P. KIRN
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S COTTSDALE, Ariz. — Addic- tion specialists do see chronic pain patients who truly become addicts, and most do who have had substance abuse issues in the past. "That seems not to happen very much," he said. "Usually, if you are seeing addiction, and you think it is iatrogenic addiction, just look into the history a little bit." Still, both Dr. Sullivan and the workshop’s other presenter, Dr. A. K. Roy, said they have little use for opiates in chronic pain. Other treatments such as tricyclics and physical rehabilitation are better.

Opiates can be somewhat effective at first, but after some patients have taken them for years, things begin to backfire, causing hyperalgesia and impeding functionality, said Dr. Roy, an addiction specialist who practices in Murfresso, La. "I have a concept that opiate use is temporary, though I don’t know exactly what the definition of temporary is," he said. "The liability for harm increases with the length of use." Dr. Sullivan said he has heard very articulate discussions on the other face of addiction, for patients who were taking drugs for pain, not for addiction, and it is a nice, short-acting agent. "I’m not an opiate guy; I think it is iatrogenic addiction, just look into the history a little bit." Still, both Dr. Sullivan and the workshop’s other presenter, Dr. A. K. Roy, said they have little use for opiates in chronic pain. Other treatments such as tricyclics and physical rehabilitation are better.

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