

JAMA[®] The Journal of the American Medical Association **RADIO REPORT**

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**This week's package, embargoed until:
11:00 AM (ET) Monday, July 11, 2016 is:**

“Increased Risk for Chronic Opioid Use After Surgery”

Radio script (TRT:60)

EMBARGO: 11:00 AM (ET) Monday, July 11, 2016

VO: CHRONIC USE OF PRESCRIPTION PAIN MEDICATIONS KNOWN AS OPIOIDS IS INCREASING IN THE UNITED STATES. MANY PATIENTS WHO HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY TAKEN THIS TYPE OF MEDICATION ARE PRESCRIBED THESE DRUGS TO HELP MANAGE PAIN AFTER SURGERY. A NEW STUDY EXAMINED WHETHER THESE PATIENTS ARE ALSO AT AN INCREASED RISK FOR USING OPIOIDS LONG-TERM.

“We looked at whether you used at least 10 prescriptions or 120 days worth of opioid in that one year following their surgery.”

VO: DR. ERIC SUN AND HIS COLLEAGUES AT THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE REVIEWED THE RECORDS OF MORE THAN 641 THOUSAND PATIENTS WHO HAD ONE OF 11 COMMON OPERATIONS DURING A 12 YEAR-PERIOD. THE STUDY APPEARS IN JAMA, INTERNAL MEDICINE.

“Patients who didn't use opioid prior to surgery were at an increased risk for chronic opioid use following their surgery. The risks range from about one and a half to five times depending on the surgery. Overall, the risk is pretty low, it was about less than one percent for most of the surgeries we looked at. Patients with a history of drug or alcohol abuse are also at an increased risk for chronic opioid use following their surgery.”

CATHERINE DOLF, THE JAMA REPORT.