AMBRE SURVEY : PATIENT ACCEPTANCE AND WILLINGNESS TO USE A NEW FORMULATION OF BUPRENORPHINE - FINAL STUDY RESULTS FROM PATIENTS ENROLLED IN PENITENTIARY CARE CENTERS

F. MEROUEH[1,2], A. MIEUSET [2], P. HJELMSTRÖM [3], M. KOSIM[4,5],

(1) Penitentiary care center of Villeneuve-lès-Maguelone, France; (2) Hospital of Montpellier, France; (3) Camurus AB, Sweden; (4) Consultations of addiction medicine PASS, Hospital of Pitié Salpétrière, Paris, France ; (5) Camurus SAS, France.

INTRODUCTION

- Perception of OAT (Opioid Agonist Treatment) is known to differ according to patient profile and is therefore an important factor in the selection of OAT by healthcare professionals [1].
- In France, a survey (AMBRE) was previously conducted to understand patients' willingness to use a new long-acting formulation of buprenorphine (BPN) available as a subcutaneous injection in weekly and monthly formulations [2].
- The long-acting formulation could be of particular interest for treatment in the prison settings to avoid misuse, diversion and patient stigma.
- Results from incarcerated opioid users from the AMBRE study are presented here.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the most important characteristics, benefits and constraints of a long-acting formulation of BPN for patients enrolled in penitentiary care centers;
- To assess the responsiveness to long-acting BPN compared to existing sublingual and oral formulations of BPN and methadone;
- To assess the perception of these new weekly/monthly formulations of buprenorphine.

METHODS

- AMBRE is a French cross-sectional and multicenter survey conducted from February to May 2019, among opioid dependent patients treated by general practitioners or specialists in CSAPA (Centers of care, accompaniment and prevention in addiction) or in prisons.
- All included patients were ≥18 years, currently treated or initiating OAT, gave oral informed consent and could complete the study questionnaire alone or accompanied.
- The patient self-questionnaire consisted mostly of closed multiple choice questions.
- The first part of the questionnaire anonymously collected data on patients' characteristics, history of opioid use and care pathway. After a short presentation of the new concept of monthly or weekly long-acting buprenorphine formulation, the second part of the questionnaire collected patients' opinion on this formulation. The drug brand name was never mentioned.
- **This final descriptive analysis reports data for patients in prison.**

RESULTS

- A total of 6 penitentiary care centers (Limoges, Sainte-Geneviève des Bois, Villeneuve-lès-Maguelone, Tours, La Farlède, Lobsann) included 105 patients (29%) of the 366 patients included in the AMBRE study.

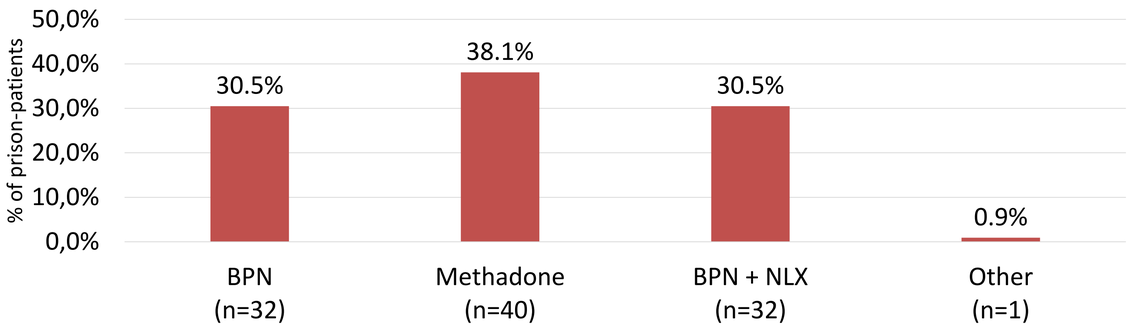
Table 1. Patient characteristics at baseline

		Prison subgroup (N=105)	Full data set (N = 366)
Gender	Male (%)	93 (88.6%)	274 (74.9%)
	Female (%)	12 (11.4%)	92 (25.1%)
Age	[18-24] years	3 (2.9%)	14 (3.8%)
	[25-34] years	21 (20.0%)	96 (26.2%)
	[35-44] years	42 (40.0%)	129 (35.2%)
	[45-54] years	36 (34.3%)	101 (27.6%)
	≥ 55 years	3 (2.9%)	26 (7.1%)
Comorbidities	Infectious diseases (HBV, HCV, HIV) *(14 missing data)*	27 (26.7%)	58 (16.5%)
	Anxiety, depression, mood and/or personality and other mental disorders *(7 missing data)*	41 (39.8%)	198 (55.2%)

PERCEPTION OF CURRENT TREATMENT

Figure 1. OAT at baseline (N=105)

BPN: Buprenorphine / NLX: Naloxone



- History of **opioid use** (N=105): mean of 18 years and median of 19 years
- History of **opioid use** for OAT non-naïve* patients (N=100): mean of 12 years and median of 11 years

**Naïve = first prescription of OAT at inclusion*

Table 2. OAT prescribed daily dose (N=104)

***1 missing value*

		Prison-patients (N=104)**		
		BPN (n=32)	Methadone (n=40)	BPN + NLX (n=32)
Prescribed daily dose (mg)	Mean (±Sd)	10.9 (±6.2)	52.4 (± 29.7)	9.4 (±5.6)
	Median	8	50	10
	Min-Max	0.4 - 24	10 - 130	2 - 18

Among OAT non-naïve patients before inclusion (N=100):

- 51% reported to have received an OAT dose lower than their needs in the past 12 months.
- 83% always or often use the full prescribed dose.
- For 31% of patients, the remaining dose is kept for personal stock.
- 30% of patients split their treatment intake over several times a day.

Figure 2. Proportion of patients treated with oral OAT who keep tablet under tongue until the tablet is completely dissolved (N=60):

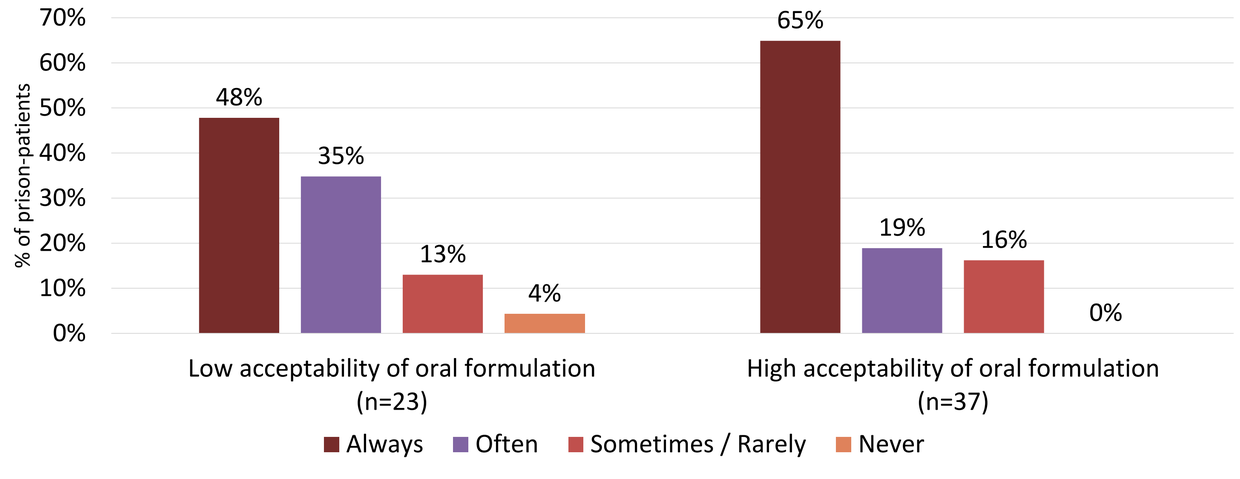
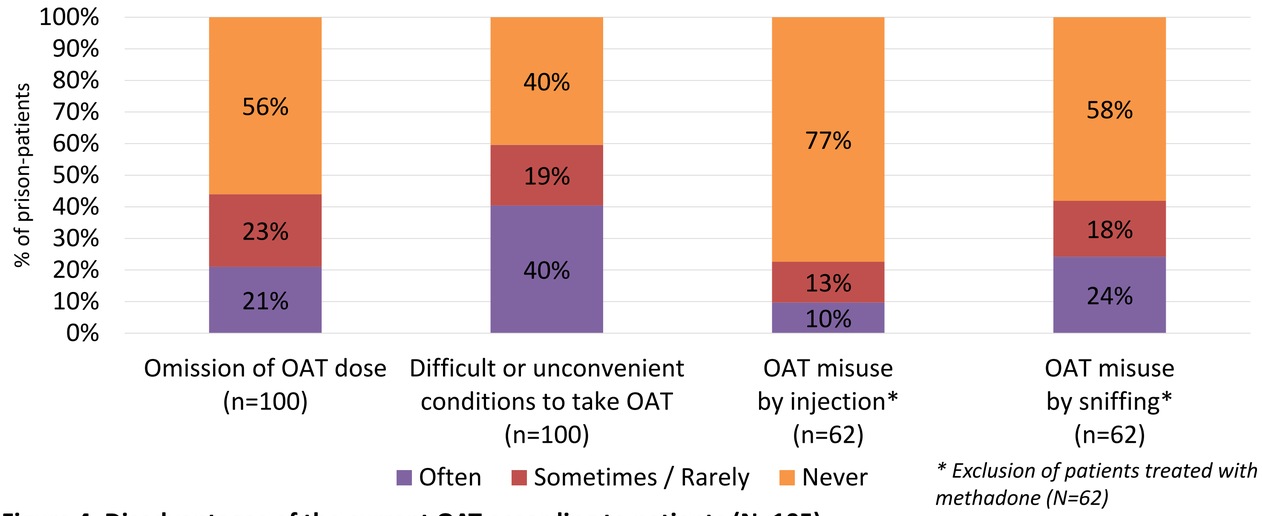


Figure 3. Difficulties encountered with current OAT in the past 12-months (N=100):



** Exclusion of patients treated with methadone (N=62)*

Figure 4. Disadvantages of the current OAT according to patients (N=105):

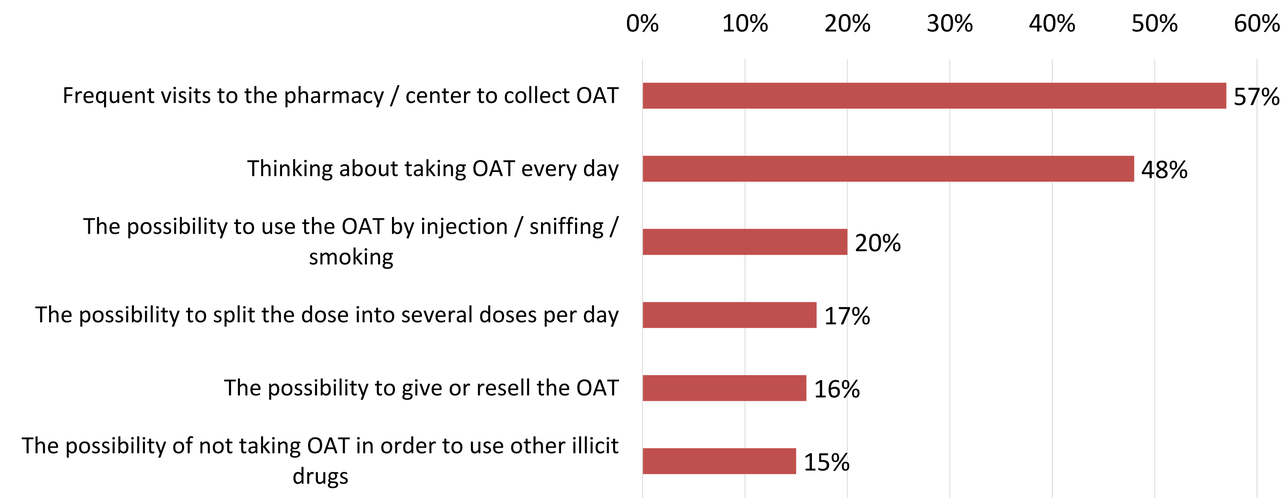
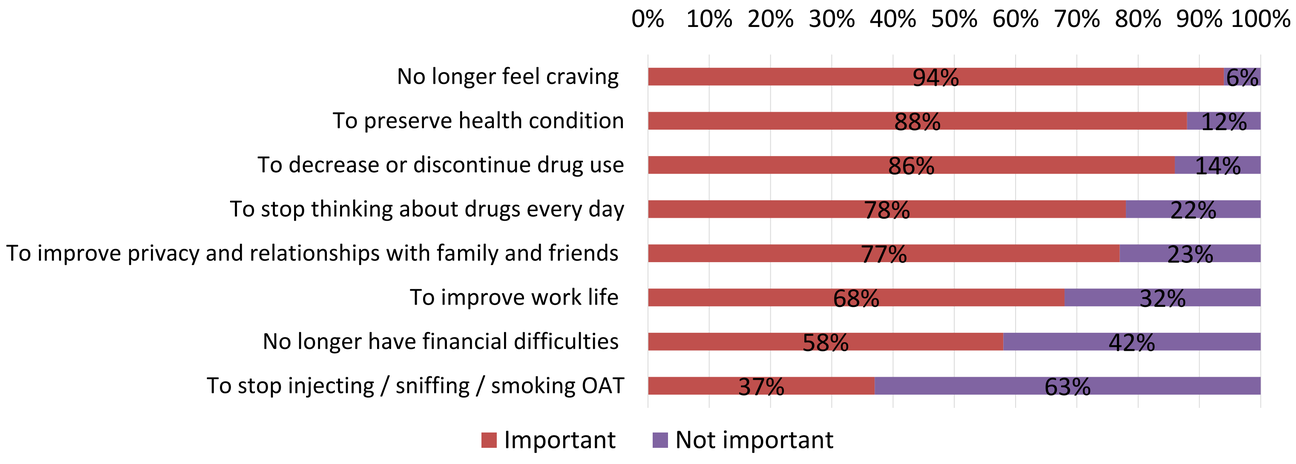
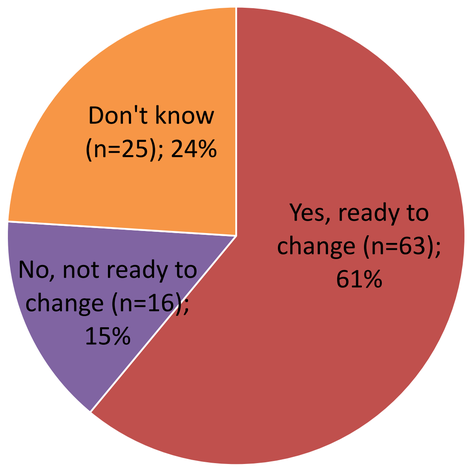


Figure 5. Patients' treatment goals with their current OAT (N=105):



PERCEPTION OF NEW TREATMENT

Figure 6. Is the patient ready to change his/her current OAT for this new formulation? (N=105):



- 46% of patients declared that switch to this new formulation can occur as soon as the new formulation is available
- "Pratique" (Convenient) and "Intéressant" (Interesting) were the 2 most frequently quoted words by the patient to describe this new drug.

CONCLUSIONS

- There were more men in prison than in the full AMBRE data set, whereas other patients characteristics such age class and comorbidities were similar.
- Patients in prison seem to prefer a treatment which would be **effective**, **accessible** and **convenient**, with the **fewest possible constraints.**
- Patients' treatment goals were centered on effectiveness and consistency of treatment with the most frequently cited objectives being **freedom from cravings, reduction of harms and decreasing or discontinuing drug use**.
- 61% of the patients interviewed in France declare a desire to change their current OAT for this new weekly/monthly formulation of long-acting buprenorphine. Among these patients who declared a desire to change, 46% consider that the change to the new formulation could be made easily.

REFERENCES

[1] Stratégies thérapeutiques pour les personnes dépendantes des opiacés : place des traitements de substitution. Presse Médicale. 2004 Oct;33(18):41–7.

[2] product-information/buvidal-epar-product-information_fr.pdf

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Thank you to the patients and the 68 investigators who participated in this study.
- This study was sponsored by **Camurus SAS**. All authors contributed to and approved the presentation; professional medical writing assistance was provided by **Kappa Santé**, funded by **Camurus SAS**.