

LONG-ACTING BUPRENORPHINE IMPLANTS FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER

Richard N Rosenthal, MD
Professor of Psychiatry
Stony Brook University

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ADDICTION

Newcastle, 9 November, 2016

Disclosure Information

Relating to this presentation, the following relationships could be perceived as potential conflict of interests:

Research funding: Titan Pharmaceuticals; Braeburn Pharmaceuticals

Support for CME/Educational activities: Indivior, Alkermes, Titan, Molteni Farma

Overview

- ◆ The Opioid Epidemic and Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) in the US
- ◆ The rationale for long-acting medications in OUD
- ◆ Buprenorphine implants
 - ◆ The evidence base
 - ◆ Most recent data
 - ◆ US FDA approval - May 2016
 - ◆ Implications

Opioid Abuse is Epidemic in the United States

In 2014:

- ◆ ~2 million Americans abused/dependent on prescription opioids
- ◆ >70% of abused opioids obtained from friends or family
- ◆ ~772,000 sought treatment for prescription pain meds
- ◆ Greatest increases in heroin use in groups with historically low rates:
 - ◆ Women, the privately insured, and people with higher incomes.
- ◆ Heroin increased >2X among 18 to 25 year olds in last 10 years
- ◆ In 2014, >14,000 people died from overdoses involving prescription opioids, and > 10,500 from heroin overdoses.

¹2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables, SAMHSA 2015 Retrieved from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/> ²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vital Signs: Today's Heroin Epidemic – More People at Risk, Multiple Drugs Abused. MMWR 2015.

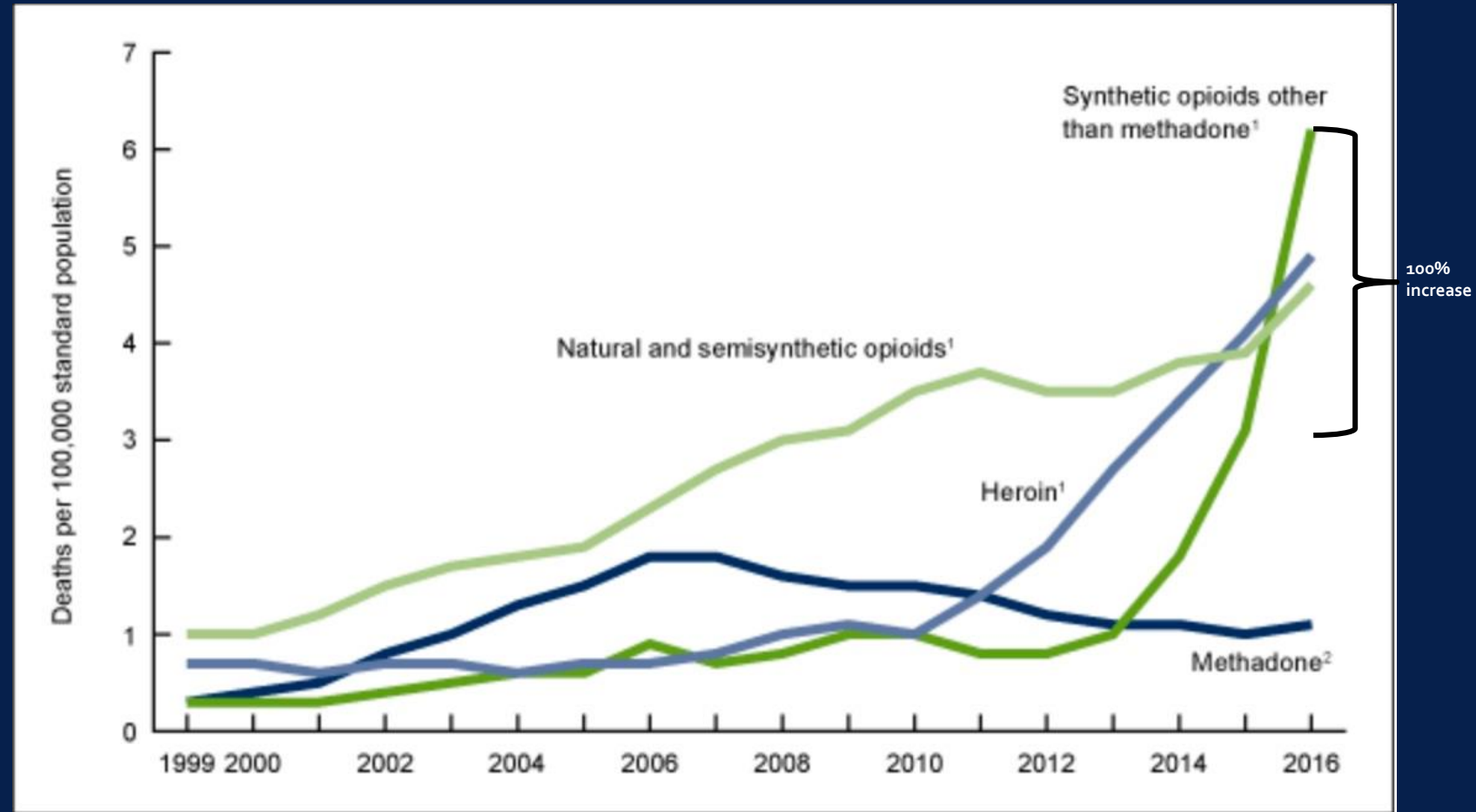
Nonmedical Pain Reliever Use among Nonmedical Psychotherapeutic Drug Users Aged ≥ 12 - 2014

- ◆ 6.5 Million Current Nonmedical Users of Psychotherapeutic Drugs
- ◆ 4.3 Million Current Nonmedical Users of Pain Relievers (66.2%)

Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Opioids by Type of Opioid, United States, 1999–2016

2017 Estimate:
~ 50,000

Hedegaard H, Warner M, Miniño AM. Drug overdose deaths in the United States, 1999–2016. NCHS Data Brief, no 294. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2017.

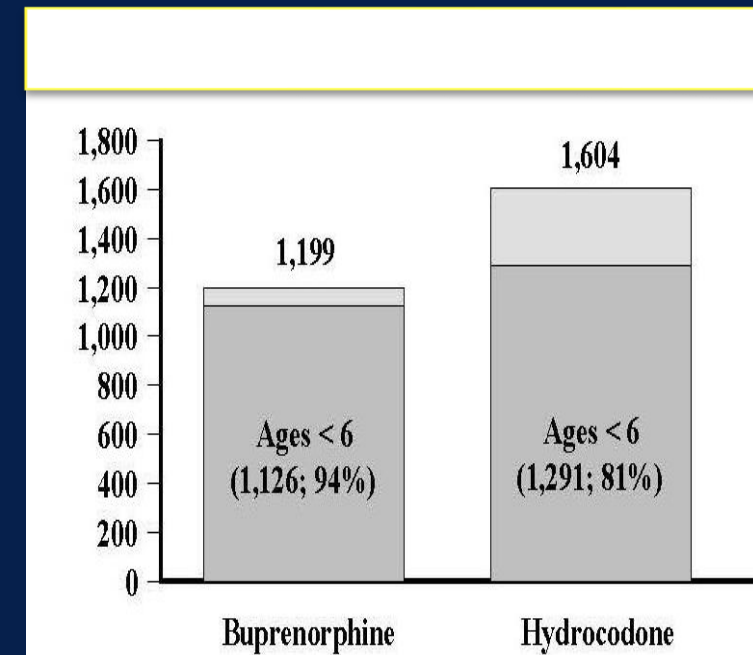


¹Significant increasing trend from 1999 to 2016 with different rates of change over time, $p < 0.05$.

²Significant increasing trend from 1999 to 2006, then decreasing trend 2006 to 2016, $p < 0.05$.

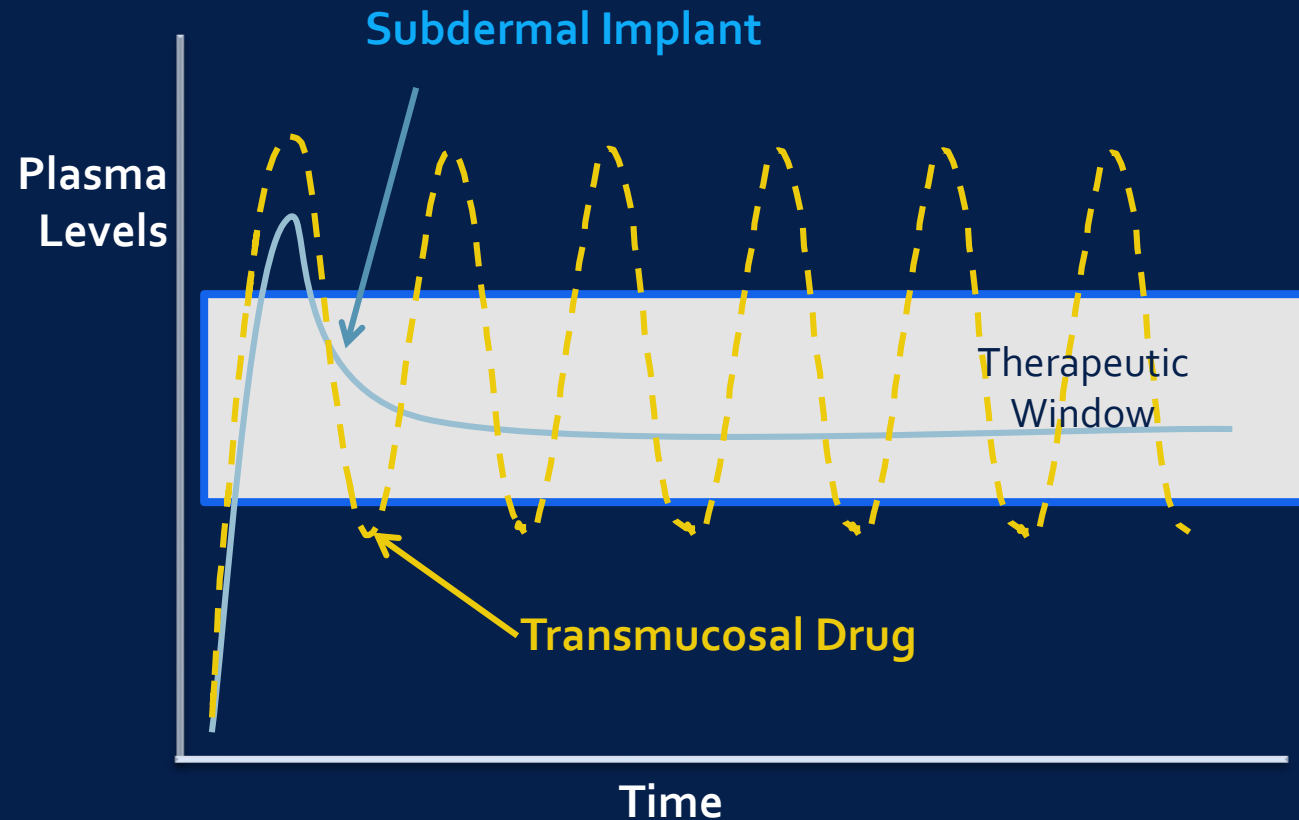
Buprenorphine: Limitations of Sublingual/ Buccal Transmucosal Formulations

- ◆ Missed doses, low adherence to treatment
- ◆ Variable exposure with risk of withdrawal
- ◆ Abuse, theft, and intentional diversion
- ◆ Accidental exposure: especially increased child ED visits
 - ◆ ≈ 1,499 children <6 years evaluated in U.S. emergency departments for buprenorphine-product ingestions in 2010-11 (0 reported in 2004)
 - ◆ 9.5% of emergent hospitalizations for drug ingestion by children <6, greater proportion than any other medication



Rationale for Sustained Release Implant Formulation

- ◆ Maintain efficacy, but minimize misuse/diversion
- ◆ Reduce dosing frequency
- ◆ Increase adherence
- ◆ Stabilize blood levels over 6 months

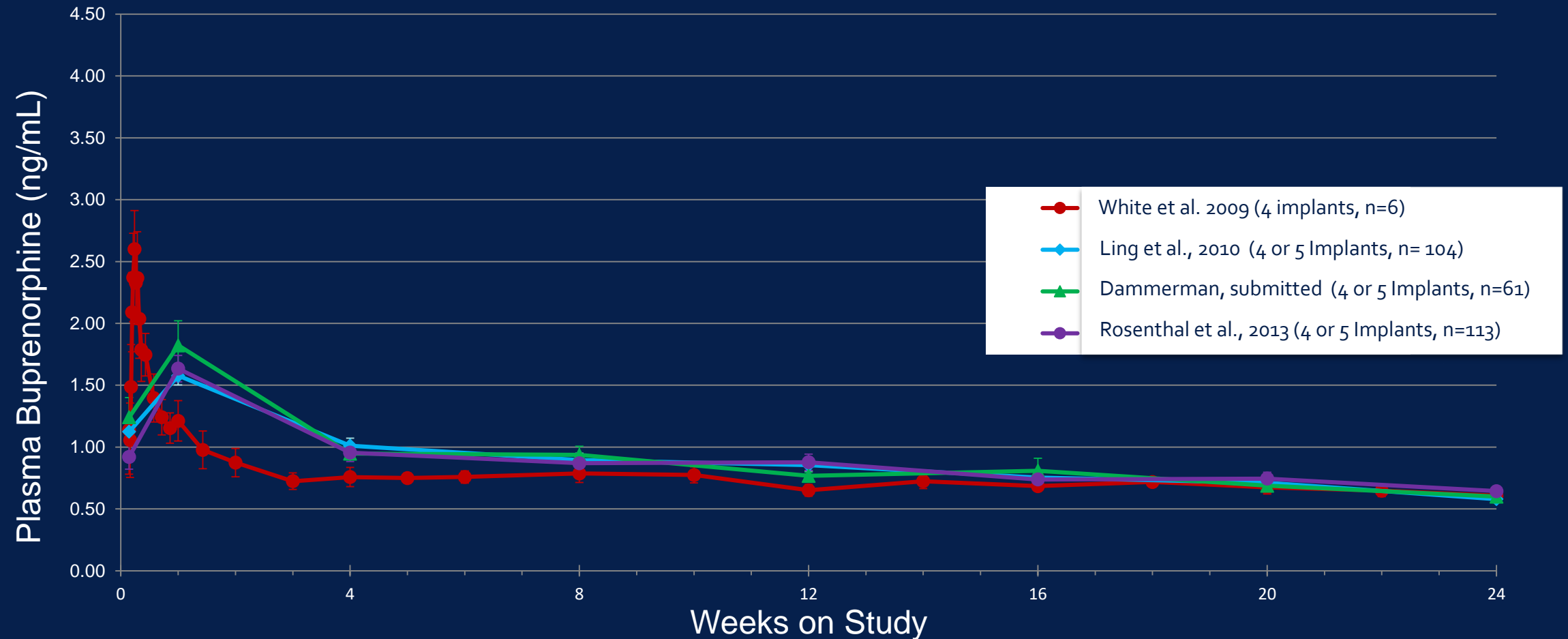


Probuphine Implant Description

- ◆ Sustained-release polymeric matrix of buprenorphine in ethyl vinyl acetate (EVA)
- ◆ Matchstick size: 26mm long
- ◆ 80mg of buprenorphine
- ◆ Continuous buprenorphine levels for 6 months

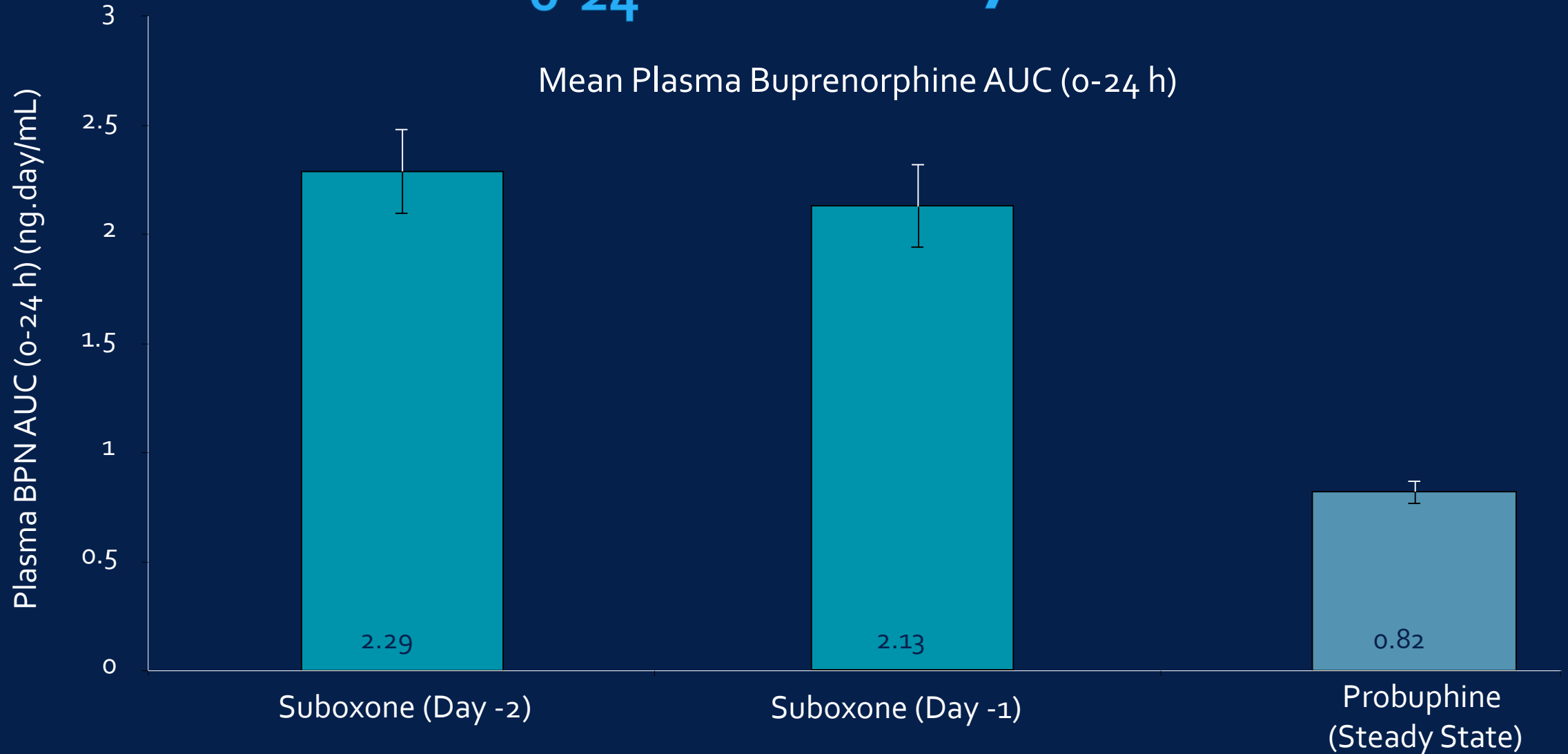


Plasma Pharmacokinetics



White J, et al. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 2009;103:37-43; Ling W, et al. *JAMA*. 2010;304:1576-83; Dammerman R, et al. *J Addict Behav Ther Rehabil* 2017;6:1; Rosenthal RN, et al. *Addiction*. 2013;108:2141-9

AUC₀₋₂₄ at Steady State



Implantation Procedure

- ◆ Under local anesthesia implants are inserted subdermally into the inner side of the upper arm in a 10-15 minute in-office procedure
- ◆ Single 2.5- to 3-mm incision in the inner upper arm
- ◆ Implants inserted one at a time 2-3 mm below the skin using a custom-designed applicator
- ◆ 24 hour pressure dressing greatly reduces post-op adverse events
- ◆ Sustained release of buprenorphine for 6 months
- ◆ At the end of each 6-month period, implants are removed in a brief, in-office procedure using a custom-designed clamp

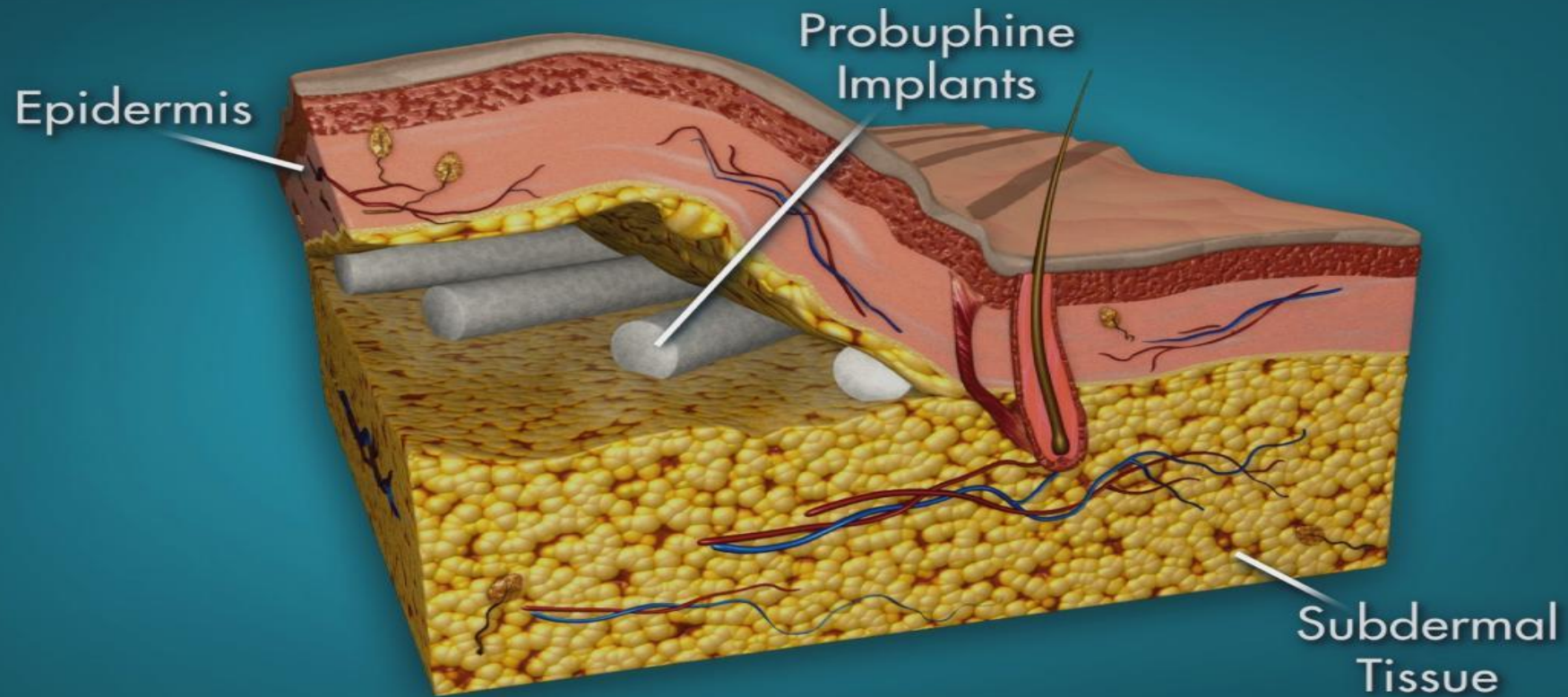
Insertion Applicator



Insertion Location



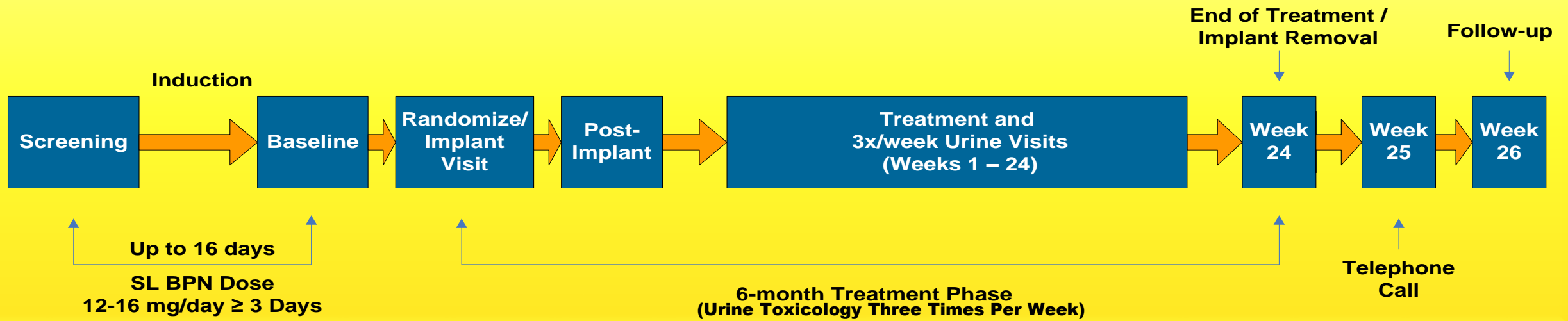
Placement of Implants



Removal Clamp



Two Phase 3 Controlled Studies



Study 1 (PRO-805):

- n = 163; 18 sites
- Two-arm: Double-blind randomized, placebo-controlled

Study 2 (PRO-806):

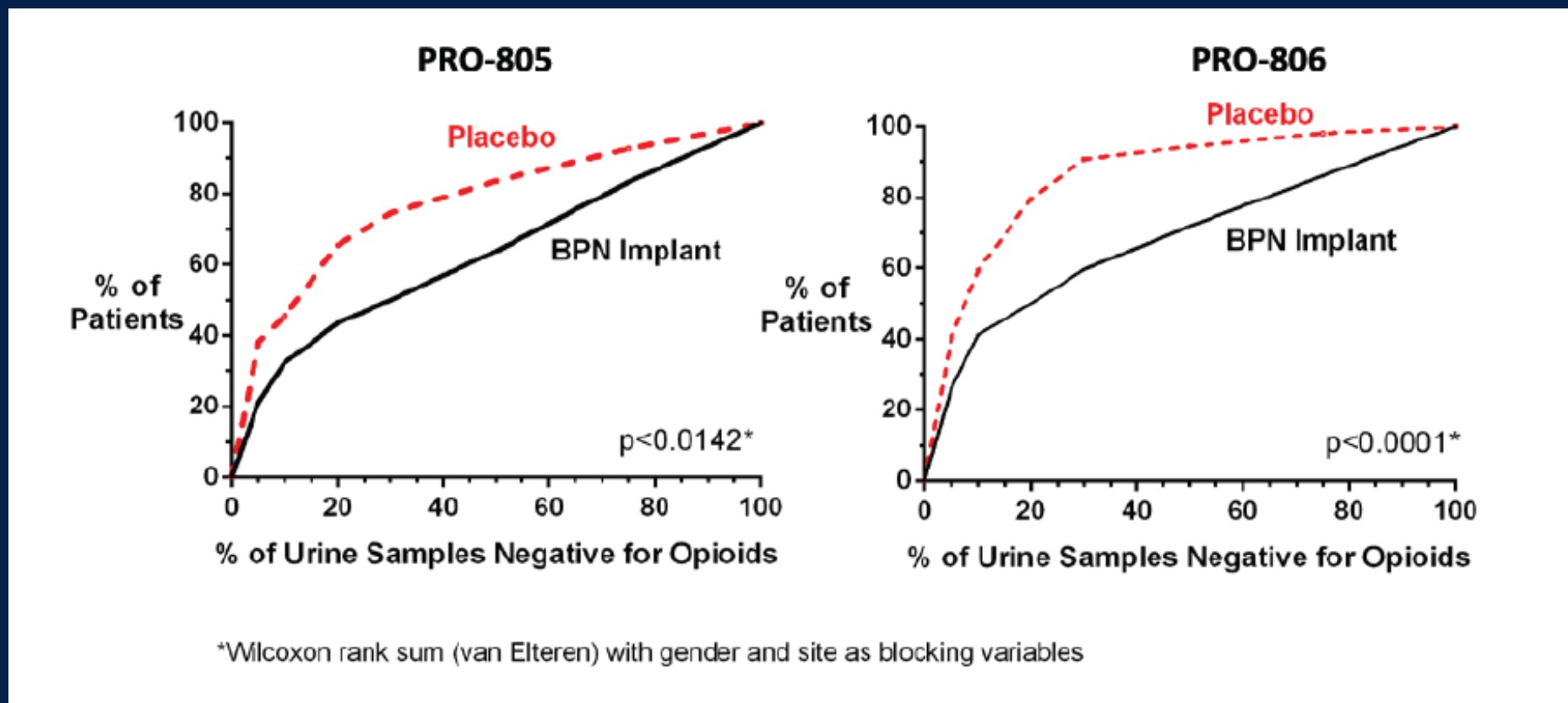
- n = 287; 20 sites
- Three-arm: Double-blind randomized, placebo-controlled and open-label active (Suboxone)

24-week Placebo Controlled Trials of BUP Implants

Summary of Significant Findings of Implant Against Placebo (2 trials):

- ◆ Higher mean % urines negative for illicit opioids, weeks 1-24
- ◆ Higher retention rate: 64-66 % vs. 26-31 %
- ◆ Lower incidence of clinician-rated and patient-rated opioid withdrawal symptoms
- ◆ Lower patient-rated opioid craving
- ◆ Greater change on the clinician global ratings of improvement
- ◆ Decreased Supplemental Buprenorphine Use

Percentage of Urine Samples Opioid Negative Weeks 1–24 in 2 Placebo Controlled Trials



Includes imputation for Patient Illicit Opioid Self-Report

Extension Studies After 2 RCTs

- ◆ Two six-month, open-label, multicenter extension studies of BUP implants
 - ◆ Participants who had completed 24 weeks of treatment in the phase 3 trials received four 80mg implants
 - ◆ Supplemental 2mg BUP SL or fifth implant for patients meeting criteria for opioid craving or withdrawal, at investigator discretion
- ◆ Implant site-related AEs: 103/329 (31.3%) in Study 1, 19/57 (11.0%) in Study 2; Modification to implantation procedure after Study 1
 - ◆ Switch from blunt end to bevel-tipped applicator
 - ◆ Switch to removal with incision at implant mid point using 2.5mm vasectomy clamp

Summary of Implant Site Adverse Events Frequency ($\geq 10\%$ in Any Treatment Group)

	PRO-805		PRO-807		PRO-806	
	Probuphine (n=108)	Placebo (n=55)	Probuphine (n=62)	Probuphine (n=114)	Placebo (n=54)	
Erythema	25.0%	21.8%	25.8%	3.5%	0%	
Edema	13.0%	9.1%	12.9%	1.8%	0%	
Itching	25.0%	14.5%	19.4%	4.4%	3.7%	
Pain	22.2%	10.9%	19.4%	8.8%	9.3%	
Bleeding	12.0%	12.7%	16.1%	1.8%	3.7%	
Bruising	5.6%	14.5%	9.7%	7.9%	11.1%	
Scar	9.3%	12.7%	1.6%	0%	0%	

Is Anyone Really Surprised?

- ◆ We already know that the Buprenorphine has efficacy for OUD compared to Placebo
- ◆ Only the delivery system was different from sublingual or buccal administration
- ◆ If the delivery system works, then it's a "no-brainer"
- ◆ So...

Open Label SL Buprenorphine

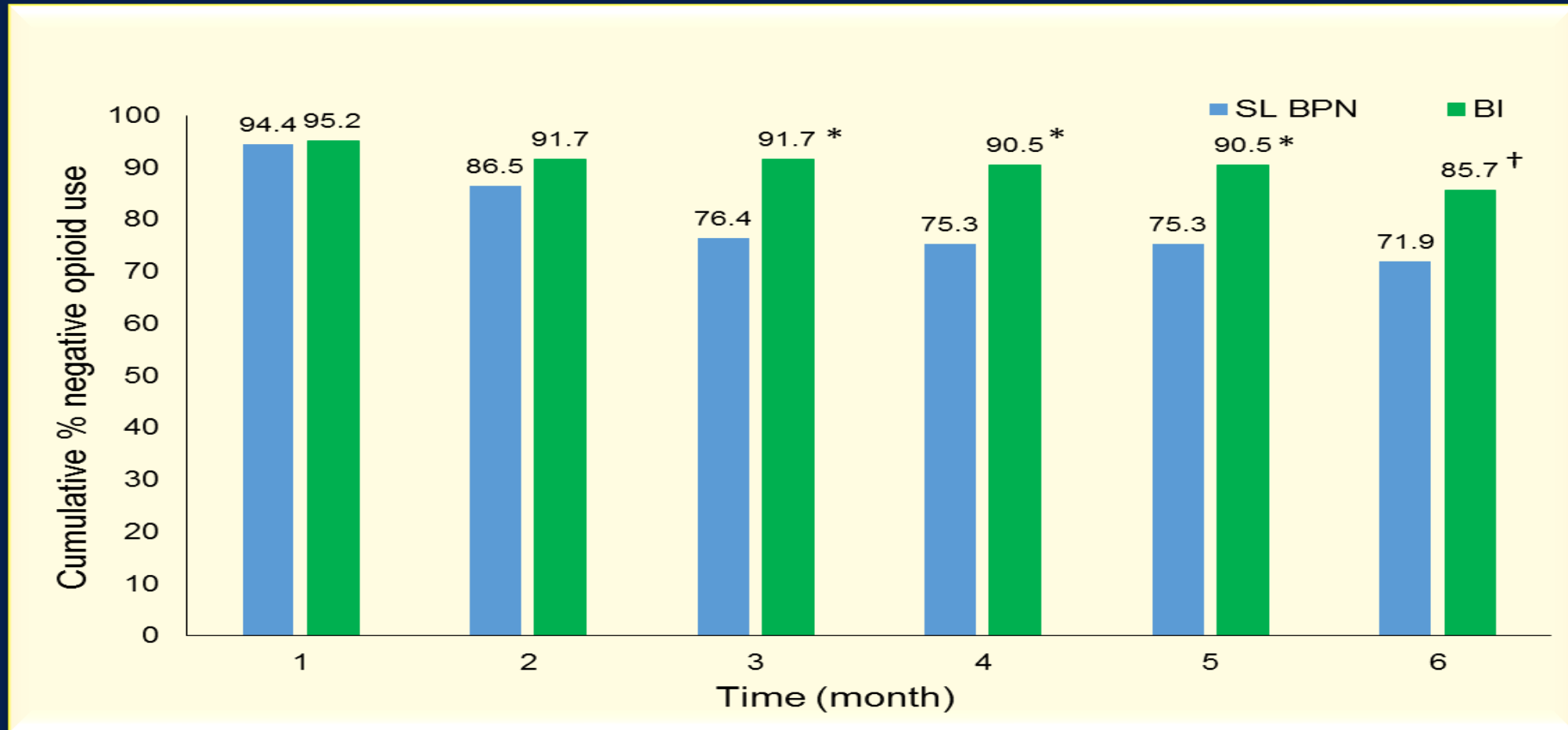
- ◆ In second trial, the implants were non-inferior to open label group continued at 12-16 mg SL Bup
- ◆ However:
 - ◆ increased subjective and objective withdrawal symptoms
 - ◆ Increased use of 2mg SL Bup rescue doses
- ◆ Unclear how transition to implants from SL Bup would affect clinical stability in patients who are already clinically stable

Double Blind Double Dummy Study of Buprenorphine Implants and SL Buprenorphine

Study:

- ◆ Head-to-head safety/efficacy trial of Bup implants and daily SL Bup on long-term remission in (N=177) patients stabilized on ≤ 8 mg of SL Bup
- ◆ Responder rate defined as at least four of six study months with no evidence of illicit opioid use by either urine test or self-report

Evidence of illicit opioid use by urine and self-report as a function of cumulative percentage of negative urine results



Double Blind Double Dummy Study of Buprenorphine Implants and SL Buprenorphine

Summary:

- ◆ Transitioning to implants was not clinically destabilizing (e.g., increased craving or withdrawal symptoms).
- ◆ 96.4 vs 87.6% had no opioid-positive urine tests for at least four of the six study months ($P < .001$ non-inferiority; $P = .03$ superiority)
- ◆ Higher 6-month abstinence rate in the implant group 85.7% vs. 71.9% in the SL Bup group ($P < .03$; $NNT = 7.25$)

Double Blind Double Dummy Study of Buprenorphine Implants and SL Buprenorphine

Implications:

- ◆ Bup implants effective for maintenance of abstinence in opioid-dependent adults clinically stable on $\leq 8\text{mg/d}$ SL Bup.
- ◆ Boost maintenance of abstinence in appropriate patients while reducing the risk of diversion and adverse events.
- ◆ Patients doing well at moderate SL doses in OTPs that could transition to office-based care.
- ◆ Proposed new targets: criminal justice, other hard-to-reach populations.²
- ◆ Issues with generalizability: most participants were white, domiciled, employed, \geq HS education, and primarily prescription OUD.
- ◆ However, this is now the primary demographic for OUD in the US.

¹Rosenthal et al., JAMA. 2016;316(3):282-290. ²Compton & Volkow JAMA. 2016;316(3):277-79

PRO-814 Demographic Characteristics

Variable	Value	Probuphine® n=87	SL BPN n=89	Total n=176
Sex	Male	59.8%	58.4%	59.1%
	Female	40.2%	41.6%	40.9%
Age (yrs)	Mean (SD)	38 (11.2)	39 (10.8)	39 (11.0)
Race	White	94.3%	95.5%	94.9%
	Black	3.4%	2.2%	2.8%
	Asian	1.1%	0.0%	0.6%
	Other	1.1%	2.2%	1.7%
Ethnicity	Hispanic or Latino	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%
	Not Hispanic or Latino	96.6%	96.6%	96.6%

PRO-814 Demographics (Cont.)

Variable	Value	Probuphine [®] n=87	SL BPN n=89	Total n=176
Time Since First Diagnosis (subject-reported, yrs)	Mean (SD)	6.2 (5.93)	6.2 (6.95)	6.2 (6.45)
Primary Opioid of Abuse	Heroin	17.2%	24.7%	21.0%
	Rx Opioid Pain Reliever	75.9%	73.0%	74.4%
	Other	5.7%	2.2%	4.0%
Daily Dose of Buprenorphine at Time of Randomization	2 mg	6.9%	3.4%	5.1%
	4 mg	13.8%	16.9%	15.3%
	6 mg	9.2%	4.5%	6.8%
	8 mg	70.1%	75.3%	72.7%

Table 3: Adverse Events, Implant-site related

System Organ Class	Preferred Term	Sublingual BPN (n=8g)	Probuphine (n=87)	Total
AT LEAST ONE AE PER SYSTEM ORGAN CLASS	TOTAL	12 (13.5%)	20 (23.0%)	32 (18.2%)
GENERAL DISORDERS AND ADMINISTRATION SITE CONDITIONS	TOTAL	7 (7.9%)	12 (13.8%)	19 (10.8%)
	IMPLANT SITE PAIN	4 (4.5%)	4 (4.6%)	8 (4.5%)
	IMPLANT SITE PRURITUS	1 (1.1%)	4 (4.6%)	5 (2.8%)
	IMPLANT SITE BRUISING	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.1%)	2 (1.1%)
	IMPLANT SITE ERYTHEMA	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.1%)	2 (1.1%)
	IMPLANT SITE HAEMORRHAGE	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (0.6%)
	OEDEMA PERIPHERAL	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (0.6%)
	DEVICE EXPULSION	1 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)
	IMPLANT SITE DISCOLOURATION	1 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)
INFECTIONS AND INFESTATIONS	TOTAL	3 (3.4%)	3 (3.4%)	6 (3.4%)
	CELLULITIS	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.1%)	2 (1.1%)
	INCISION SITE INFECTION	1 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)
	PURULENT DISCHARGE	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (0.6%)
	WOUND INFECTION	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.1%)	2 (1.1%)

Table 3: Adverse Events, Implant-site related

System Organ Class	Preferred Term	Sublingual Buprenorphine (n=89)	Probuphine (n=87)	Total
SKIN AND SUBCUTANEOUS TISSUE DISORDERS	TOTAL	3 (3.4%)	2 (2.3%)	5 (2.8%)
	DERMATITIS CONTACT	2 (2.2%)	1 (1.1%)	3 (1.7%)
	RASH	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (0.6%)
	SKIN IRRITATION	1 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)
INJURY, POISONING AND PROCEDURAL COMPLICATIONS	TOTAL	1 (1.1%)	2 (2.3%)	3 (1.7%)
	CONTUSION	1 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)
	INCISION SITE COMPLICATION	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (0.6%)
	POSTOPERATIVE WOUND COMPLICATION	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (0.6%)
NERVOUS SYSTEM DISORDERS	TOTAL	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.1%)	2 (1.1%)
	PARAESTHESIA	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (0.6%)
	PERIPHERAL SENSORY NEUROPATHY	1 (1.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)

Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy

- ◆ Required REMS for Providers: probuphinerems.com
- ◆ DEA Waiver to prescribe or dispense BUP Implant.
- ◆ Must have performed at least one qualifying surgical procedure in the last 3 months under local anesthesia using aseptic technique, including, at a minimum, making skin incisions, or placing sutures.
- ◆ Prior to performing insertions or prescribing BUP implants
Providers must successfully complete a live training program on the insertion and removal procedures and become certified in the PROBUPHINE REMS program.