# 96-week retention in treatment with extended-release subcutaneous buprenorphine depot injections among people with opioid dependence: extended follow-up after a single-arm trial

## Background

The most recent formulation of buprenorphine treatment is extended-release depot injections (BUP-XR) that are administered subcutaneously by health care professionals. This study aimed to observe treatment outcomes of BUP-XR delivered in standard practice during a 96-week follow-up period in a community setting.

## Methods

This study is an extension of the CoLAB study, a prospective single-arm, multicentre, open label trial (N=100, 7 sites in Australia) among people with opioid dependence who received monthly injections of BUP-XR (SUBLOCADE (R) was the product). Participants were followed for 96 weeks. The CoLAB study investigational trial endpoint was at 48 weeks. At the end of week 48, all participants regardless of their treatment status were invited to reconsent to participate in the extended follow up with ongoing treatment for a further 48 weeks. During this extended follow-up period, clinicians were no longer required to follow a trial protocol and treatment reverted to usual care, meaning participants could be transferred to other forms of OAT, or could remain on BUP-XR products.


## Results

**Of 100 participants at baseline, 47 were retained on BUP-XR. The median time retained on monthly depot was 90 weeks.**

# 47%

**ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED RETENTION**

→ **Older age** at first opioid use (adjusted OR= 1.08, P=0.009)

→ Longer **duration in OAT** at baseline (adjusted OR= 1.12, P=0.001)

**LOWER ODDS OF RETENTION ON BUP-XR**

→ **Heroin use** in the month prior to baseline was associated with lower odds of retention on BUP-XR. (adjusted OR=0.19, P=0.012)

**Quality of life** and medication **treatment satisfaction improved** overtime for those retained in treatment.

Prevalence of past **four-weeks opioid** use was estimated at **4% at 96 weeks of treatment.**

## Conclusion

This is one of the few studies to describe long term (96 week) retention in treatment with BUP-XR in a community setting. Patient reported outcomes suggest improvements in client wellbeing.

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