

The PACKMaN trial:



What is the best drug to treat severe pain following acute trauma, Ketamine or Morphine?



449

Paramedics worked with 449 patients to compare two strong pain killers: Ketamine and Morphine administered by injection

Average age of patient: 63.6 years

Age range of patients: 16 to 96 years

46.3% Male
53.7% Female

Patient injuries sustained:
90% of cases included fracture/dislocation
31% cases included soft tissue injury
13% of cases included wound/laceration

KETAMINE



219 received KETAMINE

Ketamine worked as well as Morphine in alleviating moderate to severe pain
Reduction in pain score measured as the summary of pain intensity difference (mean)

15 mins Minutes to significant pain relief (mean) 23 mins

18 mins Minutes to peak pain relief (mean) 25 mins

35 mins Duration of pain relief (mean) 42 mins

41% Experienced adequate pain relief (% of participants) 38%

Incidence of side effects (% of participants)		
10%	Became agitated or confused	1%
7%	Oxygen levels dropped	16%
3%	Blood pressure dropped	10%

MORPHINE



230 received MORPHINE



51%
Of participants who received a 6-month questionnaire completed this

Costs to the NHS:

Ketamine was cost-effective compared to morphine when reviewing the use of hospital resources from completed patient questionnaires

Chronic pain:

No difference in pain observed for either drug 6 months after randomisation

Whilst ketamine is not superior to morphine in reducing pre-hospital pain it provides a safe alternative analgesic for UK paramedics

Despite receiving ketamine or morphine, many patients are left in pain on arrival at hospital, highlighting the need for further research.