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Developments in Diabetes and Clinical Practice

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Introduction

Opioid addiction is a global crisis, associated with rising morbidity and mortality. Research has advanced in understanding neurobiology and developing effective therapies. This article discusses five areas: opioid neurobiology, substitution therapies, harm reduction, psychosocial interventions, and emerging treatment models.

Key Research Areas

Neurobiology of Opioid Dependence

Opioids hijack brain reward circuits, causing tolerance and withdrawal [1].

Substitution Therapies

Methadone and buprenorphine are widely used for maintenance treatment [2].

Harm Reduction Strategies

Needle exchange and supervised injection programs reduce HIV and overdose deaths [3].

Psychosocial Interventions

Motivational interviewing and group therapy complement medical treatments [4].

Emerging Therapies

Extended-release formulations and vaccines against opioids are under development [5].

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