



## ACCEPT

### Addiction & Co-morbid Conditions: Enhancing Prevention & Therapeutics

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**For attendance, purposes please text the following code: PUFYOT to 608-260-7097**

**Session Date:** Friday, August 16, 2024

#### Didactic Topic and Presenter:

Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder: Review of FDA approved and off-label MAUD

Randy Brown, MD, PhD

*Content Experts: Sheila Weix and Joe Galey*

- 
- 12:15 PM: Attendance text-in – Introductions
  
  - 12:25 PM: Case and Didactic
    - Presenter: Randy Brown, MD, PhD
  
  - 1:15 PM End of Session

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2024 Universal Activity Number (UAN): JA0000358-0000-24-009-L01-P; JA0000358-0000-24-009-L01-T

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This session is designed to meet the requirements outlined in the Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act.

([Click here](#) for more information.) Number of hours: 1



**ECHO ACCEPT**

**Addiction & Co-morbid Conditions: Enhancing Prevention & Therapeutics  
2024-2025**

**Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder: Review of FDA approved and off-label MAUD  
8/16/2024**

**Didactic and Case Presenter: Randy Brown, MD, PhD**

*Provided by the University of Wisconsin–Madison Interprofessional Continuing Education Partnership (ICEP)*

**Intended Audience:**

Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Pharmacy Technicians, Psychologists, Social Workers, Patient/Caregivers, Students

**Objectives:**

As a result of this educational regularly scheduled series, learners as members of the healthcare team will be able to:

- 1) Discuss the neurobiological effects of alcohol and implications for pharmacotherapy
- 2) Describe the mode of action and approach to patient selection for FDA-approved AUD medications
- 3) Discuss literature regarding non-FDA approved MAUDs

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Financial Relationship Disclosures</b>	<b>Discussion of Unlabeled/Unapproved uses of drugs/devices in presentation?</b>	<b>COI completion date</b>
Randall Brown	RSS Chair	Usona Institute (Grant / Contract), multi-disciplinary association for psychedelic studies (Grant / Contract)	Yes	1/29/2024
Nada Rashid	RSS Coordinator	No relevant financial relationships to disclose	No	2/5/2024
Kathleen Maher	RSS Coordinator	No relevant financial relationships to disclose	No	2/6/2024
Ritu Bhatnagar	Planner	No relevant financial relationships to disclose	Yes	2/8/2024
Paul Hutson	Planner	No relevant financial relationships to disclose	Yes	1/29/2024
Susan Mindock	Planner	No relevant financial relationships to disclose	No	1/29/2024
Sheila Weix	Planner	No relevant financial relationships to disclose	No	2/9/2024
Kellene Eagen	Planner	No relevant financial relationships to disclose	No	1/29/2024
Joseph Galey	Planner	No relevant financial relationships to disclose	No	2/13/2024
David Leinweber	Planner	No relevant financial relationships to disclose	Yes	1/20/2024
Randall Brown	Presenter	No relevant financial relationships to disclose	Yes	8/8/2024

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# Case Presentation

Randy Brown  
UW Health

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For this educational activity there are no reported conflicts of interest

# Case Introduction

- ▶ 42 yo M w/ hepatic steatosis, AUD
  
- ▶ Primary question for discussion:
- ▶ Pharmacotherapy in setting of alcohol-associated liver disease

## Medical & Behavioral Health Diagnosis:

- Hepatic steatosis (CT demonstrated)
- Tobacco use disorder
- Major depressive disorder

## Current Medications:

- Bupropion 150mg BID
- Trazodone 50-100mg QHS



# Substance Use

- ▶ History: 750mL whiskey consumption daily for past 10+ yr. Longest period of abstinence ~4 wk after OWI #2/classes. Several ED reports in last yr due to falls/intoxication, but no significant injury requiring hospitalization/intervention. ↑ LFT, hep steatosis noted on ED eval and pt referred to ALD clinic. Abstinent x ~24 hr. Experiencing anx/tremor.
  - No Sz/DT hx
- ▶ Past treatments:
  - Nova residential in 2000's
  - OWI classes
  - No prior pharmacoTx

# Social History:

- Social Factors/History: Roommate drinks heavily
- Education/Literacy: HS grad
- Income source: part-time at recycling center

# Family History:

- No known AODA
- Mother w/ MDD

**Patient strengths & protective factors:**

- Family supportive
- Employment
- Motivated by health & legal (3<sup>rd</sup> OWI recently)

**Risk factors:**

- Living situation
- Ongoing craving
- Withdrawal Sx
- Frequent waking
- Legal outcome uncertain

# Labs

Lab	Value	NI
AST U/L	90*	17-59
ALT U/L	33	0-49
T bili mg/dL	0.6	0.2-1.3
Albumin g/dL	4.5	3.5-5
INR	0.9	0.9-1.1
Hgb g/dL	13.3*	13.6-17.2
MCV fL	89	80-97
Plt K/uL	117*	150-450

# Patient Goals & Motivations for Treatment

## ▶ Abstinence

- Motivated by health concerns (falls, liver dz)
- Legal – 3<sup>rd</sup> OWI. Court pending.
- Return to work

# Proposed Diagnoses

- ▶ ALD—hep steatosis
- ▶ AUD, severe
- ▶ Mild alcohol w/d
- ▶ MDD
  - Insomnia due to MDD vs. w/d

# Discussion:

- ▶ Primary question: Medication(s) selection?

# Proposed Treatment Plan


- ▶ SUD tx intake pending
- ▶ Peer recovery coach
- ▶ Gabapentin



# DSM–5 Substance Use Disorder (“Addiction”)

- ▶ Tolerance
  - ▶ Withdrawal
- } **Physical Dependence ≠ Use Disorder**
- ▶ Larger amts/longer periods than intended
  - ▶ Persistent desire/failed attempts to quit/control use
  - ▶ Much time obtaining/using/recovering
  - ▶ Important activities sacrificed
  - ▶ Continued use despite known adverse effects
  - ▶ Failure to fulfill major obligations
  - ▶ Recurrent hazardous use
  - ▶ Craving
  - ▶ Ongoing use despite interpersonal problems
- 2–3 = mild  
4–5 = moderate  
≥ 6 = severe

By initialing here \_\_\_\_\_ you have acknowledged that Project ECHO case consultations do not create or otherwise establish a provider–patient relationship between any ECHO clinician and any patient whose case is being presented in a teleECHO clinic.



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# Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder (MAUD)

Randall Brown MD, PhD, DFASAM

Project ECHO ACCEPT

August 19, 2024

# Introduction

20+% lifetime prevalence of AUD in US

30+% of patients in hospital & primary care settings engage in current risky or problem alcohol use

MAUD is severely under-offered/utilized

# Alcohol & Neurobio



## Acute effects

↑ GABA (inhibitory transmitter)

↓ glutamate (excitatory transmitter)

Endogenous opioids → rewarding effects/craving



## Chronic, heavy consumption

↓ GABA

↑ Glutamate

Unopposed CNS excitation & ↑ dopaminergic transmission with abrupt cessation (alcohol withdrawal/craving)

# Medications for Alcohol Use Disorders (MAUD)

Naltrexone

- Oral (Revia)
- Monthly injectable (Vivitrol)

Acamprosate (Campral)

Disulfiram (Antabuse)

Other non-FDA-approved  
(but evidence-based) stuff

Ayyala D 2022. Hepatology.  
Jonas DE 2014. JAMA.

# MAUD: Naltrexone

## Mode of action = $\mu$ -opioid antagonism

- Blunted positive reinforcement
- Reduction of  $\mu$ -mediated positive expectancies

## Contraindications

- Opioid dependent/opioid analgesia
- Acute hepatitis
- Hypersensitivity

## Cautions

- Pregnancy/breastfeeding, inadequate data, but unlikely teratogenic
- Active liver dz (AST, ALT > 3-5x normal)

# Naltrexone Initiation

- Initial LFTs, urine drug screen (UDS)?
  - No need to delay Rx for LFT result if no clinical evidence of liver disease
- Oral Dose
  - Typical = 50mg daily
  - At-risk (< 3 days abstinence, young age)
    - 12.5-25mg daily x 1 week
    - Titrate up to 50mg daily
  - Sinclair Method
- Injection
  - 380mg IM monthly
  - Room temp ~30 min prior to injection

# MAUD: Acamprosate

## Mechanism of action

- Poorly characterized
- Indirect fx on GABA and glutamate receptors (“modulation”)
- Better for maintaining abstinence or use reduction

## Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity
- Severe renal dysfunction ( $Cl_{Cr} < 30$  mL/min)

## Cautions

- Pregnancy/breastfeeding – unlikely teratogenic, inadequate data
- Moderate renal dysfunction ( $Cl_{Cr}$  30-60 mL/min)
- Age > 65

## Dosing

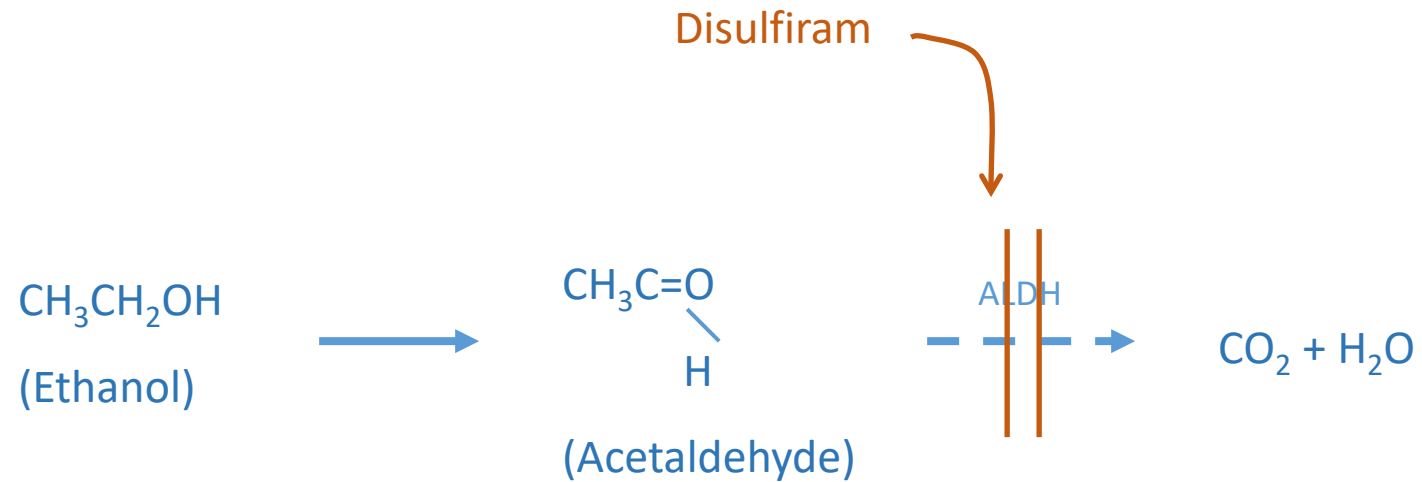
- Initial: 333mg TID for 3-5 days
- Maintenance: 666mg TID = FDA-approved; some fx at 999mg BID

Jonas DE 2014. JAMA.

Rosner S 2010. Coch Database Syst Rev.



# MAUD: Disulfiram



Disulfiram-alcohol reaction

Poor adherence  
No effect in blinded RCTs  
(Skinner MD 2014. PLoS ONE)

# MAUD: Disulfiram



## Contraindications

Severe myocardial dz  
Hypersensitivity (disulfiram, nickel, sulfur)  
Pregnancy



## Cautions

LFTs > 3 x upper normal  
Recent alcohol exposure  
Age > 60

# Disulfiram Initiation

- 12+ hours abstinence and/or BAC = 0
- Baseline LFTs, urine HCG
- ECG if clinically indicated
- Dosing
  - 250mg/day up to 500mg/day
  - Supervised dosing preferred

# Disulfiram Adverse Effects

- Common
  - Dermatitis, metallic taste, disulfiram-alcohol reaction
- Less common
  - Hepatitis, peripheral neuropathy, optic neuritis, psychosis, headache, drowsiness, sexual dysfunction
- Multiple drug interactions (TCAs, warfarin, metronidazole. . .)

# FDA-approved Pharmacotherapies + Gabapentin: Summary & Pt selection

	Naltrexone	Acamprosate	Disulfiram	Gabapentin*
	<p>Fam Hx Craving Mu blockade</p>	<p>Maintain abstinence</p>	<p>Post-acute w/d Craving</p>	
Effectiveness	<p>QD PO 'Sinclair' Q Mo IM</p>	<p>TID dosing</p>	<p>~TID</p>	
Convenience	<p>Hep, anorexia, SI = rare</p>			
Toxicity			<p>Inc risk in older Misuse potential</p>	

# Non-FDA Approved

- Gabapentin + naltrexone (Anton RF 2021. JAMA Int Med; Anton 2011. Am J Psych)
- Topiramate (Blodgett JC 2014. ACER; Johnson B 2007 JAMA)
- Ondansetron (Johnson B 2024. Eur J Int Med; Dawes M 2005 Addict Beh.)
- Prazosin (Raskind 2023. ACER; Andrade 2021. J Clin Psych; Fox H 2012 Alc: Clin Exp Res)
- Baclofen? (Duan F 2023. J Psych Res; Garbutt 2010 Alc: Clin Exp Res & 2021 Neuropsychopharm)
- GLP-1 antagonists (Shen MR 2024. J Add Med)
  - Peeps are excited, but human studies are mixed w/ pos results mainly in individuals w/ obesity + AUD



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