Suzetrigine as a Non-Opioid Alternative in Multimodal Postoperative Analgesia

Vineet Vemulapally, DO; Tishawn Ross, MD; Roberto Andrade, MD
Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY

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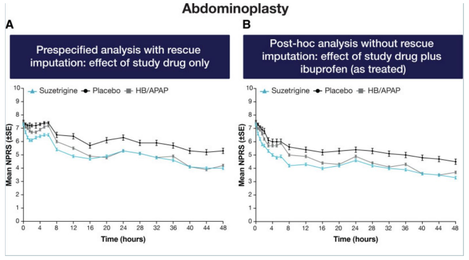
Introduction

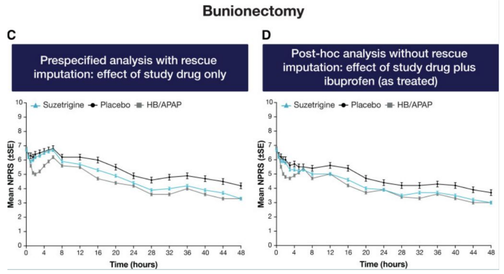
- Opioids are the cornerstone for pain control postoperatively, but remain problematic as they have considerable safety, tolerability, and addiction concerns
- Suzetrigine is a non-opioid pain medication approved in 2025 for moderate to severe acute pain
- It acts as a highly selective NaV1.8 pain-signal inhibitor of the voltage-gated sodium channel NaV1.8
- Suzetrigine could provide an alternative and effective medication regimen to opioids in the treatment of postoperative pain, which would minimize addiction potential and side effect profile

Methods

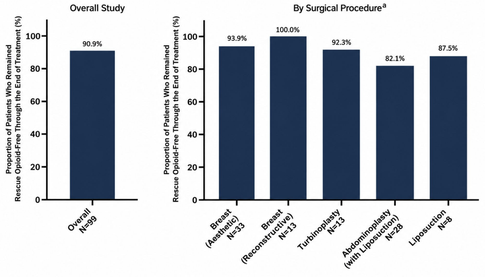
- Targeted literature review of published clinical studies and peer-reviewed reports evaluating suzetrigine for moderate-to-severe acute postoperative pain
- Included evidence consisted of two phase 3 randomized, placebo- and active-controlled trials, a phase 4 prospective multimodal analgesia study, and a peer-reviewed clinical drug review
- These studies evaluated suzetrigine across bunionectomy, abdominoplasty, and aesthetic/reconstructive surgical populations, including protocols incorporating regional anesthesia and nonopioid multimodal therapy
- The outcomes included SPID48, pain-intensity reduction, opioid-rescue requirements, patient-reported pain-control assessments, adverse events, and perioperative analgesic protocols

Results





- In 2 phase 3 trials, suzetrigine significantly improved postoperative pain versus placebo after abdominoplasty and bunionectomy
- Analgesic benefit was comparable to hydrocodone/acetaminophen, though superiority over the opioid comparator was not shown
- In the phase 4 multimodal study (N=99), 90.9% of patients remained opioid-free through the end of treatment
- 90.7% of patients rated pain control as good/very good/excellent at end of treatment, with similarly high ratings across procedure types
- Addictive potential for suzetrigine was not found based on in vitro, preclinical, and clinical trial data



Discussion

- Although Suzetrigine was not superior to hydrocodone/acetaminophen, it was near equivalent to hydrocodone/acetaminophen in reducing moderate to severe acute pain
- Suzetrigine was generally well tolerated as its adverse effects were mostly mild to moderate in severity and the few severe adverse events that occurred were deemed by investigators to likely not be caused by Suzetrigine
- No evidence of addictive potential for Suzetrigine was established in the studies. NaV1.8, the receptor Suzetrigine acts on, is selectively expressed in peripheral sensory nociceptors, but has no expression in the brain
- Future work should compare outcomes across different surgical procedure types to determine whether benefit varies by operation

References

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2. Lin S, McCoun J, Solanki D, et al. Suzetrigine as part of multimodal therapy enables opioid-free recovery after aesthetic and reconstructive surgery. Presented at: 51st Annual Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Medicine Meeting; April 16-18, 2026; Phoenix, AZ.

3. Suzetrigine in moderate to severe acute pain: a profile of its use. *Drugs Ther Perspect*. 2026;42:1-9.