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Cover image

Opioid receptors transduce the effects of endogenous opioids such as enkephalins and endorphins as well as exogenous opioids. The μ -opioid receptor, a transmembrane G protein-coupled receptor shown interacting with morphine, modulates pain perception, including the analgesic effects of the potent opioid agonists used in anaesthesia and pain medicine. This issue includes consensus guidelines on the perioperative use of opioids (Srivastava and colleagues, pp 1208–1216; editorial by Srivastava & Wilkinson, pp 1088–1092), and articles on postoperative analgesia in paediatric tonsillectomy (Stamer and colleagues, pp 1182–1191; editorial by Alcock & Chalkiadis, pp 1092–1094), persistent opioid use after paediatric fractures (Zhong and colleagues, pp 1192–1199), and opioid prescribing after total joint arthroplasty (Soffin and colleagues, pp 1217–1225).

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