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COMPARISON OF SAFETY AND EFFICACY BETWEEN PHENOBARBITAL AND LORAZEPAM FOR ALCOHOL WITHDRAWAL SYNDROME (A5), Angela Flint, Christopher Stock. Salt Lake City VA Medical Center, Salt Lake City, UT (angela.flint@va.gov) IRB approval received.

Benzodiazepines are the most widely used medication class for the management of alcohol withdrawal syndrome (AWS). A large volume of published evidence has demonstrated the ease of use, efficacy and safety of benzodiazepines for the prevention of delirium and seizures during alcohol withdrawal. Published data also provide support for phenobarbital as a reasonable alternative to benzodiazepines. However, minimal data exist directly comparing phenobarbital to benzodiazepines. Both lorazepam and phenobarbital are used at the Salt Lake City Veterans Affairs Medical Center for the treatment of AWS. The purpose of this single centered, retrospective chart review is to compare the safety and efficacy between phenobarbital and lorazepam in patients admitted to psychiatry for alcohol dependence. The primary outcome is the mean withdrawal score, measured by the validated 19 item Withdrawal Assessment Scale (WAS). Secondary outcomes include the percentage of patients experiencing seizure, experiencing falls, receiving adjuvant medications, necessitating restraints, transferring to a medicine unit and the duration of withdrawal medication administered. Descriptive statistics, unpaired t tests, and Fisher's exact test will be utilized for data analysis. Results will be presented and discussed.

