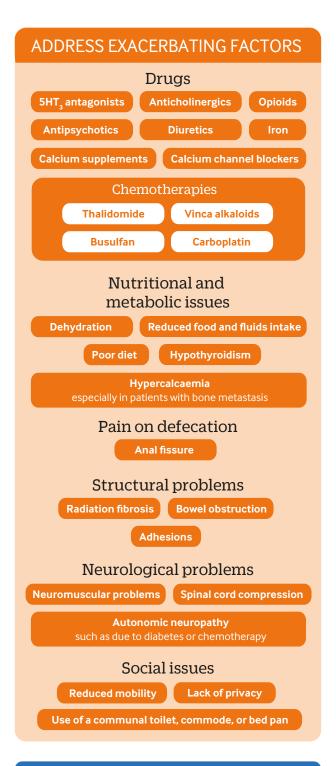
Visual summary

Managing opioid-induced constipation

Constipation affects many patients using opioids to relieve pain associated with advanced cancer or terminal disease.

Constipation is often multifactorial in such patients, and opioids may be one of several causes. As well as direct treatment of the constipation, adjusting medication regimens and treating exacerbating factors may help to provide relief from bowel transit symptoms.



Is the current dose of opioid needed to control pain? Could pain be relieved in other ways? Non-opioid analgesics Interventional pain management Could an opioid with less constipating effect be used? Buprenorphine Transdermal fentanyl Is a referral to other specialists needed? Palliative care Neuro-gastroenterology Pain clinic



