**Risk Factors for Serious Prescription Opioid Related Toxicity or Overdose Among Veterans’ Health Administration Patients**, Zedler et al, Pain Medicine Vol 15 No 11 2014 pp 1911-1929

This paper from Richmond Virginia looked at 800 patients with life threatening opioid related respiratory or central nervous system depression or overdose vs. 8000 controls. Regression showed that the strongest association with this outcome was for a daily Morphine equivalent dose greater than or equal to 100mg per day with an odds ratio of 4.1 and 95% confidence interval of 2.6 – 6.5.

Comment: This is again further evidence that opioid doses at 100mg or Morphine or more per day are likely to fall into a category of more harm than benefit and should rarely, if ever, be used in a non-cancer setting.