Responsible Pain Management Strategies to Combat Opioid Abuse

Opioid overuse for pain relief has created a major healthcare crisis in the United States, and the COVID-19 pandemic has made matters worse.

Efforts are currently focused on providing judicious pain management plans for orthopaedic patients.

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic:
- Increased stress
- Lack of therapy support
- More deaths
- 30% increased drug overdose

Ways to combat the opioid crisis:
- Adhering to legislative mandates and regulations
- Filing lawsuits for misrepresentation of drug safety
- Educating orthopaedic surgeons on the new standards
- Educating patients on drug risks and management

A combination of legislation, litigation, and doctor/patient education should be considered to reduce the ill-effects of opioid abuse.