LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

Annual Meeting
State Legislative Issues
Practice Management & Coding Updates
Pain Research in the News
Pain Treatments/Trials in the News
FDA News, Recalls & Warnings
Ethics
Controlled Substances: News & Views
Members in the News
Meetings of Interest to AAPM Members
NIH Grant Opportunity
Pain Abstracts in the News
Pain Abstracts
NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

Annual Meeting

The American Academy of Pain Medicine’s 2011 Annual Meeting Call for Proposals for Education Sessions
Submission Deadline: June 1, 2010

Scientific Submissions - targeted to improve the delivery of Patient Centered Pain Care throughout the healthcare continuum. Scientific submissions should address comprehensive (integrative and interventional) treatments of multiple classifications of pain disease states. Submissions should include, but are not limited to, the following pain classifications: Acute, Cancer, Neuropathic, Back, Pelvic, CRPS, Visceral, Headache, Spine, and Myofascial pain.

Practice Management Submissions - targeted to improve the practice of Pain Medicine in meeting the current challenges and future demands in this changing healthcare environment. Practice Management Submissions should include, but not be limited to, Legal Issues, Government and Regulatory Affairs, Advocacy and Legislative Initiatives, Compliance Issues, Coding and Reimbursement, Ethics, Personnel and Quality Management Issues, EHR implementation, Patient Care, and Contract Negotiations.

Poster submissions deadline is June 1, 2010. For more information.

State Legislative Issues
President's Message

AAPM Releases Pain Position Paper

Plenary Proceedings of the 24th Annual Meeting
Plenary Proceedings of the 24th Annual Meeting contains exciting, forward thinking perspectives currently driving the emerging field of Pain Medicine.

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Florida Senate Looks To Crack Down On Pill Mills
April 26, 2010 [Source: CBS4.com]
The Florida Senate passed SB 2272 on April 26 that requires pain clinics to register with the Florida Department of Health as business establishments that employ only doctors with special training to dispense controlled substances. The House still needs to vote on their version of the bill. Full story...

Florida Recognizes ABPM in Newest Senate Bill
Florida's Senate Bill 2272 states that "The Board of Medicine has approved the American Board of Pain Medicine (ABPM) as a recognizing agency" in its recent legislation on pain management and pain-management clinics. View Senate Bill 2272 (page 5-6 in pdf)

Governor Kulongoski Vetoes Psychologist Prescribing Bill
April 8, 2010 [Source: OMA Online] The governor of Oregon, Ted Kulongoski, vetoed a bill that would have given psychologists prescriptive authority, citing patient safety as his number one concern. Full story...

Task Force in North Carolina Addresses Non-ABMS Board Recognition
The North Carolina Medical Board has released a notice of proposed rulemaking for draft regulations concerning the recognition of non-ABMS boards. The North Carolina Medical Board plans to establish a Task Force to address this issue. View proposed rule (page 13 in pdf)...

Draft Regulations in Oklahoma Allowing Non-ABMS Board Recognition
At present, the State Medical Board of Oklahoma has draft regulations that would allow for categorical recognition of non-ABMS boards, provided they meet certain standards. These regulations must first be adopted by the legislature and signed by the Governor to become effective. It is presumed that they will go into effect this summer. In the meantime, the regulations are subject to being amended. View draft regulations...

Practice Management & Coding Updates

CODING UPDATES

Avoid Denial - Follow These Signature Guidelines for a Medical Record Review
Emily Hill, PA
CMS has clarified for providers how contractors review signature requirements in the event of a medical record review. CMS has a long standing rule that requires a legible signature on all clinic notes, orders and other documentation (e.g. procedure notes) used to substantiate a claim billed to Medicare. Failure to have a written or electronic signature on these items will result in a denial regardless of the medical necessity. Read more...

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

HR 4851 Extends SGR Until June 1, 2010
The Continuing Extension Act of 2010 (HR 4851) was signed into law on April 15. This reinstates Medicare physician payments to where they were on March 31, postponing the 21.3 percent cut through the end of May. According to the CMS, even though the payment cut technically expired on April 1, they do not believe any claims were paid to reflect the 21.3 cut. However, if there were any
claims processed during this time, these claims will be automatically reprocessed.

AMA Offers Tools to Help Process UnitedHealth Group UCR Settlement Claims
The UnitedHealth Group UCR Settlement Claims Administrator began mailing the Settlement Notice, claim form and instructions to physicians on April 16, 2010. The AMA is offering resources to assist you in the claim process. Visit the AMA site for more information.

Pain Research in the News

Chronic Pain Changes Brain Response To Acute Pain
April 15, 2010 [Source: Medical News Today]
Researchers at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to compare brain activity in response to acute noxious thermal stimuli in healthy control subjects and in patients with chronic back pain. The researchers found that although the pain perception and related brain activation patterns were nearly identical in the two groups, there was a profound difference in the nucleus accumbens (Nac). This gives new insight to the pathophysiology of chronic pain. Full story...

View video interview with the study's author...

View related article...

Aspirin Can Reduce Migraine Symptom Pain, Review Says
April 14, 2010 [Source: BBC News]
In a Cochrane Systematic Review of 13 studies, researchers found that a single dose of aspirin (900-1,000 mg) can reduce the pain of a migraine headache within two hours for over 50 percent of the people, also reducing nausea, vomiting and sensitivity to light or sound. Full story...

View Cochrane Intervention Review...

Migraine Care Often Subpar for Uninsured, Medicaid Patients
April 13, 2010 [Source: Modern Medicine]
A recent study in Neurology found that people without health insurance or with Medicare were less likely than privately insured patients to receive abortive therapy (odds ratios [ORs] for failure to receive medication, 2.0 and 1.6, respectively) and prophylactic therapy (ORs, 2.0 and 1.5, respectively). Full story...

View abstract...

More Benefits Found From Mild Exercise In Critically Ill Patients
April 9, 2010 [Source: Medical News Today]
John Hopkins critical care experts released results from a study showing that by reducing the use of prescription sedatives by half, it allows ICU patients to exercise, which not only reduces both muscle weakness and bouts of delirium and hallucinations, but increases ICU recovery times by up to two or three days. Full story...

Disabilities Sidelining Middle-Age Adults
April 9, 2010 [Source: MedicineNet.com]
Results from the National Health Interview Survey reported that 40 percent of people, aged 50-64, had trouble with at least one of the physical functions measured, such as stooping, standing two hours, walking a quarter mile, and climbing 10 steps without resting, and many reported problems with two or more functions. Arthritis was the most common condition contributing to disability among today's baby boomers. Full story...

CDC related report...
Complex Spinal Surgery Jumps in U.S. Elderly: Study
April 6, 2010 [Source: Reuters]
A recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association reports a 15-fold increase in the rate of complex surgeries to treat spinal stenosis in the elderly and disabled between 2002 and 2007. The study showed that patients who had complex fusion procedures were nearly three times more likely to experience life-threatening complications compared to those who only received decompression. Full story...

View abstract

Back to top

Pain Treatments/Trials in the News

Theravance, Inc. (THRX) Announces Initiation of Proof of Concept Phase 2 Clinical Study with its PUMA Compound, TD-1211, for the Treatment of Opioid-Induced Constipation
April 15, 2010 [Source: ClinicaSpace]
Phase 2 clinical trials on approximately 50 patients with opioid-induced constipation (OIC) will be randomized to receive TD-1211 (orally, once-daily) or placebo, in addition to their opioid treatment, over a 14-day period. The primary efficacy endpoint will be the frequency of spontaneous bowel movements. TD-1211 is an orally-administered peripherally selective mu opioid receptor antagonist (PUMA). Full story...

Alkermes Submits Supplemental New Drug Application For VIVITROL(R) For The Treatment Of Opioid Dependence
April 15, 2010 [Source: Medical News Today]
After positive results from a Phase 3 study assessing the efficacy and safety of VIVITROL for the treatment of opioid dependence, Alkermes has submitted the sNDA, which would make it the first and only non-narcotic, non-addictive drug agent available in a once-monthly formulation. VIVITROL is currently approved for the treatment of alcohol dependence. Full story...

MAP Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (MAPP) Announces Potential of LEVADEX(TM) to Treat Patients with Menstrual Migraine and with Allodynia During Migraine
April 14, 2010 [Source: ClinicaSpace]
Phase 3 trials on MAP Pharmaceuticals’ investigational LEVADEX™, an orally inhaled migraine therapy, was shown to be effective in treating a broad spectrum of migraine subpopulations, such as menstrual migraine and migraine with allodynia that are often difficult to treat with triptans. Full story...

QRxPharma Successfully Completes Pivotal Phase 3 Combination Rule Study For MoxDuo(R)IR In Patients With Post-Surgical Pain
April 14, 2010 [Source: ClinicaSpace]
The FDA required MoxDuo®IR to compare its milligram components of MoxDuo®IR (12 mg of morphine plus 8 mg oxycodone) versus patients treated with either 12 mg morphine alone or 8 mg oxycodone alone. MoxDuo®IR demonstrated statistically superior analgesic effect compared to its individual components of morphine (p=0.01) and oxycodone (p=0.01) in patients experiencing moderate to severe pain following bunionectomy surgery. Full story...

Inhibitex Reports Results Of Interim Analysis Of Phase II Clinical Trial Of FV-100
April 13, 2010 [Source: Medical News Today]
Phase II trials of Inhibitex’s FV-100 will evaluate the potential therapeutic benefit of reducing the severity and duration of shingles-associated pain, the incidence of postherpetic neuralgia (PHN) and the time to lesion healing in 350 shingles patients, aged 50 and older. The three treatment arms will include, 200...
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mg FV-100 administered once daily, 400 mg FV-100 administer once daily, and 1,000 mg valacyclovir administer three times per day. Full story...

Qutenza (R) (capsaicin) 8% Patch For Treatment Of Post-Shingles Pain Now Available
April 5, 2010 [Source: Red Orbit]
Clinical trials of Qutenza® (capsaicin) 8% patch show that a single-one hour Qutenza application can provide three months relief from pain associated with postherpetic neuralgia (PHN) and is now available through selected specialty distributors and a specialty pharmacy. Full story...

PubMed Abstract
Cochrane Intervention Review

Back to top

FDA News, Recalls & Warnings

FDA Launches Initiative to Reduce Infusion Pump Risks
April 23, 2010 [Source: FDA]
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today announced a new initiative to address safety problems associated with external infusion pumps... Read more...

FDA Panel Votes No on Oxycodone Combo
April 22, 2010 [Source: MedPage Today]
An FDA joint advisory committee voted not to recommend approval for Acurox, an oxycodone HCI and niacin combination, co-developed by Acura Pharmaceuticals and King Pharmaceuticals, indicating that the company’s data was inadequate to justify its approval application. Full story...

Back to top

Ethics

FDA Rethinks Policy on Advisers’ Conflicts of Interest
April 23, 2010 [Source: MedPage Today]
FDA draft guidance stiffens its disclosure policies on advisers’ conflicts of interest. The FDA will develop a disclosure form similar to those now required from authors seeking to publish in major medical journals, which will require a prospective committee member to list personal and immediate family interests in seven different categories. Full story...

FDA Draft Revised Guidance on Transparency and Advisory Committee

Back to top

Controlled Substances: News & Views

NIDA Blending Conference Launches New Training Approach for Young Adults Addicted to Opioids
April 22, 2010 [Source: NIH News]
NIDA announces the release of a new treatment product, Buprenorphine Treatment for Young Adults, which includes a three-hour training package that examines opioid use among young adults and looks at research results showing the effectiveness of buprenorphine for this age group. Full story...

Back to top

Members in the News
Top Chicagoland Doc Offers House Calls via Social Networking
April 13, 2010 [Source: ExpertClick.com]
AAPM member, James H. Gruft MD, announces online support via Skype to chronic pain sufferers beginning Friday, April 30, 2010. Full story...

Managing Pain After Surgery
March 12, 2010 [Source: WebMD]
AAPM President, Eduardo Fraifeld MD, and AAPM’s Liaison Director, Michel Y. Dubois MD are featured in this WebMD article discussing the necessary steps to receive the most effective post-operative pain treatment. Full story...

Share your recent accomplishments, honors, published works, media interviews, or career changes by emailing sthompson@painmed.org.

Meetings of Interest to AAPM Members

Frontiers of Clinical Investigation Symposium – Pain 2010: From Bench to Bedside
UC San Diego Clinical and Translational Research Institute (CTRI) and Nature Medicine
Date: October 14-16, 2010
Location: La Jolla, CA
More information...

International Spine Intervention Society (ISIS) Annual Meeting
July 14-17, Maui, Hawaii
For more information...

17th Napa Pain Conference
Presented by Napa Pain Institute & HealthRoots
Dates: August 13-15, 2010
Location: Napa, CA
More information...

For more Meetings of Interest to AAPM Members

NIH Grant Opportunity

New ARRA NIH Funding Opportunities
As a follow-up to the NIH session at AAPM’s Annual Meeting, NIH has alerted AAPM of a new grant opportunity available to pain physicians and other collaborating organizations for Comparative Effectiveness Research (Announcement Number: RFA-OD-10-012, Application Due Date: May 5, 2010). Visit NIH Recovery Act Grant Information for details.
Rational Use of Opioid Analgesics in Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain
April 10, 2010 [Source: The Journal of Musculoskeletal Medicine]
ABSTRACT: Opioid analgesics are used routinely in managing acute musculoskeletal pain. However, physicians often hesitate to use them for chronic pain, such as that seen in rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, and low back pain.
Read more...

Brain Perfusion in Fibromyalgia Patients and its Differences Between Responders and Poor Responders to Gabapentin
April 7, 2010 [Source: Arthritis Research and Therapy]
ABSTRACT: Introduction: The aim of the present study was to determine the brain areas associated with fibromyalgia, and whether pretreatment regional cerebral blood flow (rCBF) can predict response to gabapentin treatment.
Read more...

Use of Hydromorphone, with Particular Reference to the OROS(R) Formulation, in the Elderly
April 1, 2010 [Source: Drugs & Aging]
ABSTRACT: The prevalence of pain increases with age. However, pain is often inadequately managed in elderly people, which undermine quality of life. Pain has been associated with depression, sleep disturbances, impaired ambulation, and increased healthcare use and costs.
Read more...

Long-Term Efficacy and Safety of Combined Prolonged-Release Oxycodone and Naloxone in the Management of Non-Cancer Chronic Pain
March 29, 2010 [Source: International Journal of Clinical Practice]
ABSTRACT: Objective: The aim of this study was to assess safety and efficacy of fixed combination oxycodone prolonged release (PR)/naloxone PR in terms of both analgesia and improving opioid-induced bowel dysfunction (OIBD) and associated symptoms, such as opioid-induced constipation (OIC), in adults with chronic non-cancer pain.
Read more...

Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov

Pain Prevalence Study in a Large Canadian Teaching Hospital. Round 2: Lessons Learned?
Sawyer J, Haslam L, Daines P, Stilos K.
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center, Acute Pain Service, Department of Anesthesia, Sunnybrook Hospital, 2075 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4N 3M5, Canada.
Abstract: Pain prevalence is an important indicator of quality patient care, representing a basis upon which improvement efforts may be developed. Based on results of an original pain prevalence survey at our institution in 2006, a follow-up prevalence study was conducted in November 2007.
PMID: 20207327 [PubMed - in process]
Read more...

Ziconotide for Treatment of Severe Chronic Pain
Pharmacological management of severe chronic pain is difficult to achieve with currently available analgesic drugs, and remains a large unmet therapeutic need. The synthetic peptide ziconotide has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Agency for intrathecal treatment of patients with severe chronic pain that is refractory to other treatment modalities. Ziconotide is the first member in the new drug class of selective N-type voltage-sensitive calcium-channel blockers.

PMID: 20413151 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Read more...

In rats with persistent pain, spinal group I metabotropic glutamate receptor (mGluR) activity has been shown to be pronociceptive, while spinal group II/III activity is antinociceptive. In brain, group I mGluR activity produces positive feedback effects on glutamate release, while group II/III activity produces negative feedback effects. It is unknown whether the nociceptive vs. antinociceptive effects of spinal group I vs. group II/III mGluR activity depend on differential regulation of spinal glutamate release.

PMID: 20412385 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Read more...

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

The following studies and trials are posted at ClinicalTrials.gov

Analgesic Effect of Ketamine in Patients Undergoing Hysteroscopic Endometrial Thermal Ablation Surgery
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First Received: April 16, 2010  Last Updated: April 19, 2010
Sponsor: Northwestern University
Principal Investigator: Shireen Ahmad, MD, Northwestern University
Information provided by: Northwestern University
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01106846
Stated Purpose: Hypothesis: The intraoperative administration of ketamine will result in a 30% reduction in opiate requirement following endometrial ablation surgery and the intraoperative administration of ketamine will result in a decreased time to meet discharge criteria in the PACU following endometrial ablation surgery. The research question is "Does intraoperative administration of ketamine result in decreased postoperative opiate requirement and time to discharge from the postanesthesia recovery unit (PACU) following hysteroscopic endometrial ablation".
Read more...

Clinical Trial to Examine the Pain Relief of PH-797804 Alone Or With Naproxen in Subjects With Osteoarthritis of the Knee
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First Received: April 12, 2010
Sponsor: Pfizer
Information provided by: Pfizer
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01102660
Stated Purpose: PH-797804 is a potent inhibitor of inflammatory mediators that have a potential role in pain signaling following nerve injury and inflammation. Blocking such mediators may potentially have a therapeutic benefit by reducing pain.
Read more...

**Efficacy Study in Lumbosacral Radiculopathy**
First Received: April 22, 2010
Sponsor: GlaxoSmithKline
Information provided by: GlaxoSmithKline
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01110057
Stated Purpose: This study will be a double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group study. After enrollment and initial assessments, subjects will receive 35 days of study medication. During this treatment period, they will be randomized to either oral GW856553 7.5mg BID or matching placebo in a 1:1 ratio. Sufficient numbers of subjects will be recruited to obtain 128 evaluable subjects.
Read more...

Back to top

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American Academy of Pain Medicine
8735 W. Higgins Road, Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60631
847/375-4731     847/375-6477 Fax
info@painmed.org   www.painmed.org