August 27, 2010 - Your Latest News on the Specialty of Pain Medicine

LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

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Pain Awareness Month

September is Pain Awareness Month
Celebrate Pain Awareness Month this September by sending your patients to view AAPM’s patient education videos:

- Managing Chronic Pain, A Guide for Patients
- Finding Relief: Pain Management for Older Adults
- Living with Chronic Pain is Not Much of a Life
  AAPM President, Eduardo Fraifeld MD, is featured in a local television news program, in which he discusses the various treatments options available to the patient suffering with chronic pain.

Pain Treatments/Trials in the News

FDA Panel Roundly Rejects CNS Drug for Fibromyalgia
August 20, 2010 [Source: MedPage Today]
Jazz Pharmaceutical’s Xyrem (sodium oxybate) did not receive approval from a FDA advisory panel as a treatment for fibromyalgia. The panel indicated that the potential for widespread abuse was too great to expand the indication and said they were also concerned about the unusual dosing mechanism. Full story...

Equivocal Message on Duloxetine for Pain from Panel
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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Supported by an unrestricted grant; content is completely and independently selected and edited by AAPM staff and members.

PATIENT INFORMATION

Patient Education Videos

Now Available Online

Online videos are now available in the Patient Portal section of the AAPM

President's Message

August 19, 2010 [Source: MedPage Today]

A FDA Advisory Panel voted 8 to 6 to recommend Eli Lilly’s Cymbalta (duloxetine) for the treatment of chronic musculoskeletal pain. Lilly was seeking an indication for the treatment of chronic pain, but although trial results showed Cymbalta was effective in treating lower back pain, it was not effective against arthritis pain. 

Full story...

Xenon Pharmaceuticals Inc. Initiates a Phase 2 Clinical Trial in Post Herpetic Neuralgia (PHN) for Topical XEN402

August 17, 2010 [Source: ClinicaSpace]

Xenon Pharmaceuticals’ XEN402 is a novel topical therapy for the treatment of PHN at its source through Nav1.7 block. The product was well tolerated and achieved good drug concentrations in the skin of normal human volunteers in the Phase 1 trials. Phase 2 trials are expected to conclude in the beginning of 2011. 

Full story...

Trigemina Reports Positive Results with its Lead Compound TI-001 in a Phase Ila Clinical Trial for Chronic Daily Headache

August 11, 2010 [Source: ClinicaSpace]

Trigemina’s Phase Ila proof-of-concept trial for TI-001 in chronic daily headache, utilized the recently elucidated nasal-cerebral pathway to directly target pain transmission in cranial nerves and the central nervous system, enabling important and effective new strategies for the treatment of acute and chronic pain. Fifty percent of TI-001 treated patients reported at least a 50 percent reduction in pain at four hours compared to 11 percent with placebo, and 27 percent reported zero pain in four hours, compared to placebo. 

Full story...

QRxPharma Pty Ltd. Announces Positive Phase 2 Proof-of-Concept Data for MoxDuo(R)IV Pain Therapy

August 9, 2010 [Source: BioSpace]

Phase 2 results of MoxDuo IV formulation of morphine plus oxycodone found that it resulted in fewer side effects and offered better pain relief than morphine alone for the treatment of moderate to severe post-operative pain in patients following hip replacement surgery. 

Full story...

Phase 3 Open-Label Study Comparing Tapentadol Extended Release Tablets to Oxycodone Controlled Release Tablets

Published by Pain Practice

July 19, 2010 [Source: PR Newswire]

Phase 3 results found that tapentadol extended release tablets had lower overall incidence of gastrointestinal adverse events than oxycodone controlled release (CR) tablets (tapentadol ER, 52.0 percent; oxycodone CR 64.1 percent) in patients with chronic knee or hip osteoarthritis pain or chronic low back pain. 

Full story...

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Pain Research in the News

Scientists Uncover Achilles Heel of Chronic Inflammatory Pain

August 17, 2010 [Source: EurekAlert]

In research on mice, researchers at the University College London have shown for the first time that genes involved in chronic inflammatory pain are regulated by molecules inside cells called small RNAs. Mice lack the enzyme Dicer in some of their nerve cells, which is where small RNAs are produced. Researchers concluded that this might provide a new avenue for developing drugs to combat inflammatory pain. 

Full story...

View abstract at The Journal of Neuroscience...

New Way of Classifying Rheumatoid Arthritis Aimed at Identifying...
View "Finding Relief: Pain Management for Older Adults" video
View "Managing Chronic Pain, A Guide for Patients" video

Educational Booklet and DVD
Copies of the new educational booklet and DVD, Finding Relief: Pain Management for Older Adults are available to members free of charge, with the addition of a modest shipping fee. To request copies of this resource, email: info@painmed.org.

UPDATES

The AAPM Power Point Presentation on the Federal Regulations for Prescribing has been updated as of 6/01/2010. View this new presentation.

Revised AAPM Ethics Charter
Includes statement on conflicts of interest.

Need Facts on Pain?
Updated: Visit AAPM's "Facts on Pain" section in the Patient Center of the AAPM website, which now includes detailed references to each fact. These are helpful to have on hand for media calls. Read more...

Affiliate Membership
Are the members of your pain team AAPM members? Affiliate membership information...

The American Board of Pain Medicine (ABPM) is committed to the certification of

the Disease Earlier
August 12, 2010 [Source: Newswise]
The American College of Rheumatology released revised classification criteria to replace the 1987 version, which will allow for the study of treatments for the disease at much earlier stages before joint damage occurs. Full story...

Prosthesis with Information at its Fingertips
August 6, 2010 [Source: PhysOrg.com]
Scientists at Germany’s University of Jena led a team that developed a stimulation unit that modified a conventional hand prosthesis in order to reduce phantom pain after an underarm amputation. The sensors that were only meant to regulate the strength of a grip, now provided the upper arm with sensory information, which was then transmitted to the brain. This information then induced a functional re-organization of the brain regions that may help to prevent or even reverse phantom pain. Full story...

A Little Adversity Bodes Well for Those with Chronic Back Pain
August 6, 2010 [Source: University of Buffalo]
Researchers at the University of Buffalo studied the patterns of relationships between adversity and chronic back pain (CBP)-related outcomes, and found that adversity or resilience may lead to better CBP-related outcomes. Full story...

Gene Associated with Susceptibility to Chronic Pain Caused by Nerve Injury Identified
August 5, 2010 [Source: News-Medical.Net]
Researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, along with scientists in Canada and Europe, identified a region of mouse chromosome 15 that likely contains a genetic variant or variants contributing to pain. Researchers identified a single gene, Cacgn2, that was significantly associated with chronic pain in both mice and in breast cancer patients who had developed chronic pain after the removal or partial removal of a breast. Full story...

Molecular Bandit Keeps Pain at Bay
August 3, 2010 [Source: UNC Health Care]
Researchers at the University of North Carolina found that the enzyme, prostatic acid phosphatase (PAP) blocks pain in animal models by robbing the cell of PIP2, which prevents the chemical cascade behind chronic pain. PAP also has a long-lasting effect when administered before injury or inflammation. Full story...

CODING & REIMBURSEMENT UPDATES

Time is on Your Side: How to Use Time-Based Coding for Evaluation and Management Services
Emily Hill, PA
In our fast paced world, it sometimes seems there is simply not enough time in a day to get everything done. For the pain medicine physician, encountering the patient that needs or demands extensive counseling can seem like a "no-win" situation. There is a way to make time work to your advantage by using time-based coding for some of your patient encounters. Read more...

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
qualified physicians in the field of Pain Medicine. Visit abpm.org to view ABPM's mission, vision, and objectives.

Pain Medicine: August, 2010

Highlights:

NEUROPATHIC PAIN SECTION
Includes a CRPS Special Issue

EDITORIAL
Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Workshop at Cardiff: Editorial

SPINE SECTION
Painful Medial Branch Neuroma Treated with Minimally Invasive Medial Branch Neurectomy

PAIN & AGING SECTION
Differences in Brain Structure and Function in Older Adults with Self-Reported Disabling and Nondisabling Chronic Low Back Pain

ACUTE PAIN SECTION
Long-Term Ambulatory Continuous Nerve Blocks for Terminally Ill Patients: A Case Series

View all topics slated for the next issue of Pain Medicine Journal or go to the Library section of the AAPM website for more information.

MEMBERSHIP

AAPM Membership Renewals

Membership renewals are currently being sent out. Don't miss the opportunity to continue being a part of the primary organization for physicians practicing in the specialty of pain medicine. As a member you will continue to receive the AAPM E-News, Pain Medicine, the official journal of AAPM, as well as representation and advocacy in Washington DC, up-to-date coding information, discounts on AAPM's Annual Meeting, and a host of other member benefits.

Pay dues online or for phone assistance, please call customer service at 847/375-4731.

Bring in a new, paid, active AAPM member and receive the Plenary Proceedings of the 24th Annual Meeting, which contains exciting, forward thinking perspectives currently

The Practice Management section of the AAPM website offers practical tools and resources for you to use in your pain practice, as well as coding updates, reimbursement news, and other information that impacts your practice. Visit this helpful section on the website

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International Pain News

Experts Call For End to Global Inequalities In Access To Pain Medication For Cancer Sufferers
August 19, 2010 [Medical News Today]
The Global Access to Pain Relief Initiative (GAPRI) was launched at the 2010 World Cancer Leaders’ Summit. The initiative calls for universal access to controlled pain medication for cancer patients worldwide. Full story...

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AAPM Members in the News

Black Patients, Women Miss Out on Strongest Medications for Chronic Pain
August 17, 2010 [Source: University of Michigan Health System]
AAPM member Carmen R. Green MD, discusses a recently released study from the University of Michigan Health System that examined the health disparities in pain management. Full story..

FDA Planning Final Opioid Recommendations by 2011
August 13, 2010 [Medscape]
AAPM President-Elect, Perry G. Fine MD, comments on the education aspect of the proposed REMS. Full story (log-in required)...

Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS): A Short Critique
July 23, 2010 [Source: Medscape]
AAPM Chair of the Communications Committee, John F. Peppin DO, FACP, is featured in a Medscape article commenting on the proposed REMS for opioids. Full story (log-in required)...

Prescription Drug Overdose Cases Skyrocket at Emergency Departments
July 12, 2010 [Source: Amednews.com]
AAPM's Director at Large and Chair of the Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Committee, Scott Fishman MD, comments on the REMS proposal in a recent article in Amednews.com. Full story...

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AAPM Annual Meeting

AAPMedicine's 2011 Call for Scientific Poster Abstracts:

**DEADLINE APPROACHING (September 15th)**

The 2011 Program Committee invites you to submit proposals for scientific abstracts to be presented at the AAPM 27th Annual Meeting, March 24-27, 2011, at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in National Harbor, MD.

2011 - Poster Award

The 2011 Scientific Poster Abstract Committee will select up to 5 scientific poster abstract submitters to present their research during a "live" Plenary Research Highlights session held Saturday morning during the 2011 Annual Meeting. This honor includes the recognition of "Faculty" status at the meeting. As faculty of the annual meeting, the presenters' airfare, lodging and Annual Meeting registration are complementary (up to a dollar amount that will be specified at a later date.) If there are questions regarding this amount, please email mokeefe@connect2amc.com.

As an additional reward, each of these presenters will also receive complementary meeting registration for the 2012 AAPM Annual Meeting in Palm Springs, California.

Hurry! AAPM's Scientific Abstract Submission Deadline is September 15th!

Click Here for complete details.

For more information, or to apply online, visit: www.painmed.org or call Mary O'Keefe 847-375-4809.

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Meetings of Interest to AAPM Members

21st Annual Meeting of the Alliance of State Pain Initiatives
October 21-23, 2010, Atlanta, GA
More information...

For more Meetings of Interest to AAPM Members

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American Board of Pain Medicine (ABPM)

Early Filing Deadline: September 1, 2010

ABPM Now Accepting 2011 Examination Applications
Deadline: October 1, 2010
The American Board of Pain Medicine (ABPM) is now accepting applications for the 2011 certification and recertification examinations. Both examinations are available in an electronic format, eliminating the need to travel to one location to take a paper and pencil exam. Online testing is offered through ACT testing sites nationwide during the 3-week window of Saturday, April 2, 2011 through Saturday, April 23, 2011. For information on ACT test center locations, visit http://www.act.org/actcenters/locate/index.html. The early filing deadline for both examinations is Wednesday, September 1, 2010, and the final filing deadline is Friday, October 1, 2010.

If you are interested in certifying with ABPM, or if you are a Diplomate who needs to recertify, please visit www.abpm.org to download the applicable examination materials, or contact the ABPM office to request a copy of the Examination packet at (847) 375-4726 or info@abpm.org.

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Pain Abstracts in the News

A Randomized Trial of Tai Chi for Fibromyalgia
Abstract: We conducted a single-blind, randomized trial of classic Yang-style tai chi as compared with a control intervention consisting of wellness education and stretching for the treatment of fibromyalgia (defined by American College of Rheumatology 1990 criteria).
Read more...

Vertebroplasty Versus Conservative Treatment in Acute Osteoporotic Vertebral Compression Fractures (Vertos II): an Open-Label Randomised Trial
August 10, 2010 [Source: The Lancet]
Abstract: Background: Percutaneous vertebroplasty is increasingly used for treatment of pain in patients with osteoporotic vertebral compression fractures, but the efficacy, cost-effectiveness, and safety of the procedure remain uncertain. We aimed to clarify whether vertebroplasty has additional value compared with optimum pain treatment in patients with acute vertebral fractures.
Read more...

The Adequacy of Chronic Pain Management Prior to Presenting at a Tertiary Care Pain Center: The Role of Patient Socio-Demographic Characteristics
Abstract: The Pain Management Index (PMI) is used to assess pain medication adequacy in black and white chronic pain patients (18–50 years) at referral to tertiary pain care. Using WHO guidelines for pain treatment, PMI was calculated from pain severity and drug analgesic potency.

Read more...

Multicenter, Randomized, Comparative Cost-effectiveness Study Comparing 0, 1, and 2 Diagnostic Medial Branch (Facet Joint Nerve) Block Treatment Paradigms before Lumbar Facet Radiofrequency Denervation

Abstract: Background: Among patients presenting with axial low back pain, facet arthropathy accounts for approximately 10–15% of cases. Facet interventions are the second most frequently performed procedures in pain clinics across the United States. Currently, there are no uniformly accepted criteria regarding how best to select patients for radiofrequency denervation.

Read more...

State Medical Board Members’ Attitudes About the Legality of Chronic Prescribing to Patients With Noncancer Pain: The Influence of Knowledge and Beliefs About Pain Management, Addiction, and Opioid Prescribing

Abstract: Objectives: This study was designed to determine whether relevant clinical or policy issues can adequately explain regulators' attitudes about the legality of opioid prescribing for patients with noncancer pain.

Read more...

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PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov

An Unfavorable Lifestyle and Recurrent Headaches Among Adolescents. The HUNT Study.
Neurology. 2010 Aug 18. [Epub ahead of print]
Robberstad L, Dyb G, Hagen K, Stovner LJ, Holmen TL, Zwart JA.
Neurology. 2010 Aug 18. [Epub ahead of print]
From the Faculty of Medicine (L.R., G.D., J.-A.Z.), University of Oslo; Department of Neurology (J.-A.Z.), Oslo University Hospital, Ullevål; Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies (G.D.), Oslo; Department of Neuroscience (K.H., L.J.S., J.-A.Z.), HUNT Research Centre, Department of Public Health (T.L.H.), Faculty of Medicine, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim; and Norwegian National Headache Centre, Section of Neurology (K.H., L.J.S.), and National Centre for Spinal Disorders (J.-A.Z.), St. Olavs Hospital, Trondheim, Norway.
Abstract: OBJECTIVES: To examine the relationship between recurrent headache disorders (i.e., migraine and tension-type headache) and lifestyle factors (overweight, low physical activity, and smoking) in an unselected population study among adolescents.
PMID: 20720191 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

Modifiable Risk Factors for Incident Pain in Older Adults
Pain. 2010 Aug 7. [Epub ahead of print]
Shi Y, Hooten WM, Roberts RO, Warner DO.
Department of Anesthesiology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA.
Abstract: Pain symptoms in aging populations have significant public health
The aim of this study was to determine risk factors for the incidence of pain in older adults, focusing on those factors that can be modified. Secondary analyses were performed of survey data from the nationally representative Health and Retirement Study of US adults older than 50 years. Generalized estimating equations logistic regressions were used to evaluate the effect of selected variables on the incidence of pain using biennial (1992 through 2006) data, determining the relationship between the incidence of pain and the potential risk factors.

Effectiveness of Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation and Visual Illusion on Neuropathic Pain in Spinal Cord Injury

Brain. 2010 Aug 4. [Epub ahead of print]
1 Institut Guttmann. Hospital de Neurorehabilitació, Institut Universitari adscrit a la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, 08916 Badalona, Spain.
Abstract: The aim of this study was to evaluate the analgesic effect of transcranial direct current stimulation of the motor cortex and techniques of visual illusion, applied isolated or combined, in patients with neuropathic pain following spinal cord injury. In a sham controlled, double-blind, parallel group design, 39 patients were randomized into four groups receiving transcranial direct current stimulation with walking visual illusion or with control illusion and sham stimulation with visual illusion or with control illusion. Our results demonstrate that transcranial direct current stimulation and visual illusion can be effective in the management of neuropathic pain following spinal cord injury, with minimal side effects and with good tolerability.

Acute and Preventive Pharmacologic Treatment of Cluster Headache

Francis GJ, Becker WJ, Pringsheim TM.
Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, T3B 6A8, Canada.
Abstract: Cluster headache (CH) is a rare and disabling primary headache disorder. CH attacks are unilateral, short, severe headaches associated with ipsilateral autonomic symptoms that occur in a periodic fashion. We provide a systematic review and meta-analysis of existing trials of pharmacotherapy for CH and evidence-based suggestions for acute abortive treatment and preventive therapy for cluster headache. Prospective, double-blind, randomized controlled trials of any pharmacologic agent for the symptomatic relief or prevention of CH were included in this evidence-based review.

Intrinsic Brain Connectivity in Fibromyalgia is Associated with Chronic Pain Intensity

Napadow V, Lacount L, Park K, As-Sanie S, Clauw DJ, Harris RE.
Massachusetts General Hospital, Charlestown, and Logan College of Chiropractic, Chesterfield, Missouri.
Abstract: OBJECTIVE: Fibromyalgia (FM) is considered to be the prototypical central chronic pain syndrome and is associated with widespread pain that fluctuates spontaneously. Multiple studies have demonstrated altered brain activity in these patients. The objective of this study was to investigate the degree of connectivity between multiple brain networks in patients with FM, as well as how activity in these networks correlates with the level of spontaneous
Psychological Factors and Their Relation to Osteoarthritis Pain

University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, USA.

Abstract: OBJECTIVE: We assessed associations between mental health and osteoarthritis (OA) pain. CONCLUSION: We demonstrate an association between worsened measures of mental health and OA pain and risk of pain flares. General mental health is a modifiable component of health and may represent a new avenue for prevention of OA pain flares.

PMID: 20346403 [PubMed - in process]

Read more...

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

The following studies and trials are posted at ClinicalTrials.gov

A Study in Migraine Prevention
First Received: August 17, 2010
Sponsor: Eli Lilly and Company
Information provided by: Eli Lilly and Company
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01184508
Stated Purpose: The primary objective of this study is to measure the change in frequency of migraine attacks per 28 days in migraine patients being treated orally with LY2300559 for 12 weeks.

Read more...

Conversion to Embeda With Rescue Trial (ConvERT)
Verified by Alpharma Pharmaceuticals LLC, a subsidiary of King Pharmaceuticals, LLC, August 2010
First Received: July 30, 2010 Last Updated: August 12, 2010
Sponsor: Alpharma Pharmaceuticals LLC, a subsidiary of King Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Study Director: Beatrice Setnik, Ph.D., King Pharmaceuticals
Information provided by: Alpharma Pharmaceuticals LLC, a subsidiary of King Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01179191
Stated Purpose: The purpose of the research study is to find out if opioid dependent chronic pain patients who are judged by their physician to be eligible to change their current opioid medicine and to participate in this study can be successfully adjusted to a stable dose of EMBEDA®. The study will also assess each patient's risk for prescription opioid abuse, misuse and diversion.

Read more...

A Study to Evaluate the Effects of Milnacipran on Pain Processing and Functional MRI in Patients With Fibromyalgia
First Received: July 29, 2010
Sponsor: University of Michigan
Collaborator: Forest Laboratories
Principal Investigator: Daniel Clauw, MD, University of Michigan
Information provided by: University of Michigan
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01173055
Stated Purpose: Fibromyalgia is a condition that includes pain, tenderness, stiff muscle, and fatigue. Researchers want to find out if "a drug" called milnacipran
can help people with fibromyalgia. milnacipran (Savella) is approved by the FDA for the management of fibromyalgia. In this study, milnacipran will be given to find out more about how it affects pain and thinking in people with fibromyalgia.

Effect of Nitrous Oxide in Treating Neuropathic Pain: A Study in Chronic Low Back Pain Patients

First Received: July 27, 2010 Last Updated: August 12, 2010
Sponsor: Outcomes Research Consortium
Information provided by: Outcomes Research Consortium
Principal Investigator: Alparslan Turan, M.D., The Cleveland Clinic
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01172600
Stated Purpose: Epidural injection will be completed under fluoroscopy and all patients will receive 1-4 mg of Midazolam for relaxation before procedure and, if needed, 50-100 mcg of Fentanyl intravenous (IV). Radiopaque contrast (Omnipaque 300), for confirming the epidural position of the needle, steroids and local anesthetic agents will be used according to the physician performing the block and will not be controlled by the study. Patients will be randomly assigned to receive either inhaled Entonox along with the interventional block they are scheduled for or oxygen.

Ability of Modulated Imaging and Laser Speckle Imaging to Determine Burn Wound Severity and Healing Potential

First Received: July 20, 2010
Sponsor: University of California, Irvine
Principal Investigator: Anthony Durkin, PhD, Beckman Laser Institute University of California Irvine
Information provided by: University of California, Irvine
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01166893
Stated Purpose: Currently, the primary method of determining burn depth is clinical assessment. Unfortunately, studies demonstrate that even experienced burn surgeons are accurate in their initial assessment in only 60-80% of wounds1. Underestimation of burn wound depth will lead to a delay in diagnosis, prolonged hospitalization, prolonged provision of painful costly procedures, and potentially hypertrophic and keloid scarring with functional and cosmetic deformity. Overestimation of burn wound depth may lead to surgical wound excision with skin grafting that is potentially unnecessary.