AAPM E-NEWS

AAPM's Website Won the 2010 eHealthcare Leadership Award
for Best Site Design in the Physician/Clinician-Focused Site Category

LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

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in National Harbor, MD
March 24-27, 2011
Pre-meeting activities begin
Wednesday, March 23rd

Pain Medicine, D.C.
The Governing Voices of Pain:
Medicine, Science, and Government

27th Annual Meeting
March 24 - 27, 2011
Pre-meeting activities begin March 23, 2011

AAPM’s New Website Wins 2010 Platinum eHealthcare Leadership Award

AAPM is the recipient of the Platinum eHealthcare Leadership Award for the best site design in the Physician/Clinician-Focused Site category. This leading awards program is provided by Strategic Health Care Communications and exclusively recognizes the very best healthcare websites. The awards highlight the Internet's role in achieving an organization's business objectives and this year's award recipients were chosen from nearly 1,300 entries from both large and small organizations. Click here to view AAPM's new website and join its new Members’ Community.

Polls for the 2011 AAPM Elections Are Open

There is still time to place your vote before the polls for the American Academy of Pain Medicine’s (AAPM) 2011 Elections close on Tuesday, November 30, 2010.

To access the electronic ballot, click on the "Vote Now" button below or visit the AAPM website (www.painmed.org) and click on the "Vote Now" icon on the right-side of the home page. Use the AAPM Member Identification Number and your Last Name, information noted in the November 9 e-mail sent to you by AAPM, to log-in to the ballot.

Vote Now!

If you need assistance with logging-in, please contact AAPM at (847) 375-4731.
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.
Order your copy TODAY
Price: $79

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Practice Management & Coding Updates

CODING & REIMBURSEMENT UPDATES

CMS Releases Physician Payment Final Rule for 2011
Emily Hill, PA
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released the 2011 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) and payment policies on November 2, 2010. Consistent with current law, which requires CMS to adjust MPFS payment rates annually based on the application of the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR), CMS has calculated the annual conversion factor (CF) for 2011 to be $25.5217. This SGR formula has resulted in negative updates since 2003, although significant reductions have been avoided by CMS administrative adjustments and legislative actions for each year through 2010.
Read more...

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Senate Passes One-Month Reprieve for Medicare Pay Cut
November 22, 2010 [Source: Amednews.com]
The Senate passed the Physician Payment and Therapy Relief Act of 2010, which continues this year's current payment rates through the month of December. The House is expected to vote on the bill when they return from Thanksgiving break, November 29.
Full story...

FDA News, Warnings & Recalls

FDA Drug Safety Communication: FDA Recommends Against the Continued Use of Propoxyphene
November 19, 2010 [Source: FDA]
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is recommending against continued prescribing and use of the pain reliever propoxyphene because new data show that the drug can cause serious toxicity to the heart, even when used at therapeutic doses. FDA has requested that companies voluntarily withdraw propoxyphene from the United States market. Full story...
View related article in Cardiovascular Research...
View related article in British Journal of Anaesthesia...

Analgesic Clinical Trials Innovation, Opportunities, and Networks (ACTION) Initiative
November 1, 2010 [Source: FDA]
The FDA recently announced the new ACTION Initiative, which aims to streamline the discovery and development process for new analgesic drug products for the benefit of the public health. The initiative will be implemented by the University of Rochester, and AAPM will be a key stakeholder and participant in this initiative. AAPM Research Committee Co-Chair, Ajay Wasan MD MSc, will be representing AAPM as a Co-Chair on the ACTION Executive Committee. Full story...

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Pain Research in the News

Research Department at Phoenix Area Arizona Pain Specialists Selected to Debut Revolutionary Pain Scale Tool
November 18, 2010 [Source: PRWeb]
The Global Pain Scale is a new tool for physicians that will help assess the physical aspect of pain and also information regarding the effects pain has on their patients in four specific categories, including: a numeric rating scale, how pain has affected the patient's emotional well-being, clinical outcomes, and the effect a patient's pain has on their activities of daily living. Full story...

Fruit Flies Lead Scientists to New Human Pain Gene
November 11, 2010 [Source: PR Newswire]
Researchers at Children’s Hospital Boston and their collaborators discovered the gene that encodes part of a calcium channel called alpha 2 delta 3. Through experiments with fruit flies, the researchers targeted nearly 12,000 genes for mutations specifically in nerve cells, using RNA interference technology. Nearly 600 candidate pain genes were identified and the alpha 2 delta 3 gene was chosen for further study in humans. Full story...

View related article in The Journal of Neuroscience...

Back Door Block Hits Right ‘Groove’ in Shoulder
November 2010 [Source: Anesthesiology News]
Researchers at Albany Medical Center proposed a new, anterior approach to the suprascapular nerve block that may make administration of the block not as painful. Traditionally this block is performed via the posterior approach. Full story... (log-in required)

University of Toronto Psychologists Identify Influence of Human Social Interaction on Sensitivity to Physical Pain
November 8, 2010 [Source: University of Toronto]
Researchers at the University of Toronto studied the impact of inadequate social connectedness on numerous health outcomes in humans and showed that mildly negative social encounters reduce physical pain sensitivity by provoking an analgesic response. This information may have significant clinical implications because a mildly negative social encounter with one's physician may cause a patients' underestimated reports of pain, which may result in insufficient pain control measures. Full story...

Study Sheds Light on Aromatase Inhibitor Joint Pain Syndrome
November 8, 2010 [Source: e! Science News]
The study found that women who experience joint pain mostly in the hands and wrists while using aromatase inhibitors for post-menopausal breast cancer were more likely to have stage II or stage III cancer. Some of these patients also had tenosynovitis. Full story...

View related article in Breast Cancer...

Cancer Experience Worse for Young Adults in Spite of Better Survival Odds
November 8, 2010 [Source: EurekAlert!]
A study by researchers at the University of Michigan Health System found that younger adult cancer patients have the most difficulty coping with the pain and emotional issues of cancer, despite their potentially better survival odds. AAPM member, Carmen R. Green MD, was lead author of the study, which
Presentation on the Federal Regulations for Prescribing has been updated effective 11/01/2010. 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 qualified physicians in the field of pain medicine. Visit abpm.org to view ABPM's mission, vision, and objectives.

Pain Medicine: November, 2010
Highlights:

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE
Associations between Heat Pain Perception and Opioid Dose among Patients with Chronic Pain Undergoing Opioid Tapering

SPINE SECTION
The Pain of Vertebral Compression Fractures Can Arise in the Posterior

appears in the November issue of Pain Medicine. Full story... View related article at NIH Public Access in Cancer...

Electrical Stimulation Shows Pain-Relieving Effect
November 4, 2010 [Source: Medical News Today]
Researchers at Stanford University found that transcranial electrostimulation (TES) of the brain produces significant pain-reducing effects in humans. The results showed that TES reduces both initial and exaggerated pain responses in the central nervous system. Full story... View original abstract in Anesthesia & Analgesia...

Burning Pain and Itching Governed by Same Nerve Cells
November 4, 2010 [Source: EurekAlert!]
A study by Swedish researchers examined the nerve cells that transfer heat pain in mice. The study found that when the nerve cells lost their capacity to signal, the mice reacted less to heat, as expected, but started to itch incessantly. More research is needed to understand what nerve fibers conduct itching. Full story... View original article in Neuron... View related article in PubMed Access in Upsala Journal of Medical Sciences...

A Single Shot Of Morphine Has Long Lasting Effects On Testosterone Levels
November 4, 2010 [Source: EurekAlert!]
New research published in Molecular Pain showed that opioids had "long lasting genomic effects in body areas which contribute to strong central and peripheral testosterone levels" including the brain, liver and the testis. Lead study author comments that the study’s message is not that physicians should then limit the use of opioids for pain, but to encourage them to consider hormone replacement therapies to combat this effect. Full story...

Horizon Pharma, Inc. Presents HZT-501 Long-Term Safety Data and LODOTRA Phase 3 Data at the American College of Rheumatology Annual Meeting
November 9, 2010 [Source: ClinicaSpace]
A long-term safety study of HZT-501, a novel single-tablet formulation of ibuprofen (800 mg) and high-dose famotidine (26.6 mg), in patients with mild to moderate pain, showed that long-term safety of HZT-501 was comparable to ibuprofen alone. In two large 24-week double-blind prospective trials, HZT-501 demonstrated a statistically significant decrease of approximately 50 percent in upper GI ulcers compared to ibuprofen (800 mg) alone over 24 weeks. Full story...

Vitamin D Fails Osteoarthritis Test
November 9, 2010 [Source: WebMD]
Researchers at Tufts New England Medical Center in Boston found that vitamin D supplements failed to reduce pain or slow down the progression of joint damage in people with osteoarthritis of the knee. The study included 146 people, who took either 2,000 international units (IU) of vitamin D a day or a placebo. The goal for those receiving the vitamin D was to increase its level to above 30 nanograms per milliliter (ng/mL) of blood. Full story...

Analysis Shows Topical NSAID Has Potentially Better Gastrointestinal Safety Profile Than Oral NSAIDs in Treatment of Knee Osteoarthritis
November 8, 2010 [Source: Drugs.com]
A study assessing the safety and tolerability profiles of topical versus oral diclofenac on patients suffering with knee osteoarthritis found that patients receiving the topical PENNSAID® (diclofenac sodium topical solution) 1.5% w/w had significantly fewer gastrointestinal (GI)-related adverse events than those receiving an oral non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). The most common adverse events were primarily skin dryness at the application site. Full story...

View related article in the Archives of Internal Medicine...

MAP Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (MAPP) Announces Successful Results for LEVADEX(TM) Thorough QT Trial

November 8, 2010 [Source: ClinicaSpace]

Results from a QT trial of MAP Pharmaceuticals LEVADEX, and orally inhaled migraine therapy, showed that a supra-therapeutic dose of LEVADEX does not increase QTc intervals, which support the company's previous findings of cardiac safety from its long-term open label and pharmacodynamics trials. Full story...

View related article at NIH Public Access in Cardiology Journal...

Ethics
Decline Seen in Doctors' Ties to Drug Companies

November 9, 2010 [Source: Boston.com]

In a national survey of practicing physicians, eight out of ten indicated that they still accepted free drug samples, gifts, or payments for their services from pharmaceutical companies in 2009, which is a decline from the first survey in 2004. The study also showed that only 18 percent said they were reimbursed for traveling to meetings sponsored by drug companies, down from 35 percent, and participation in company speaker's bureaus fell from 16 percent to 8 percent. Full story...

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AAPM Members in the News

Community Health Center, Inc. Receives $453,000 Grant from Mayday Fund for Pain Management Study with VA Connecticut Healthcare System

November 9, 2010 [Source: contact.com]

AAPM scientific member, Robert Kerns PhD, is the VA collaborator for a new Mayday Fund project for pain management, which will extend the VA's Stepped Care Model for Pain Management into the community setting. Full story...

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Annual Meeting

AAPM's 27th Annual Meeting
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The Governing Voices of Pain: Medicine, Science, and Government
March 24 - 27, 2011 in National Harbor, MD
Pre-meeting activities begin Wednesday, March 23rd
years, the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) has provided education, training, advocacy and research in the specialty of pain medicine. Consider joining AAPM today and become part of this growing medical specialty society. Visit www.painmed.org for more information.

AAPM on Social Networking Sites

Join the AAPM Linked-In Group and become a "fan" of AAPM on Facebook

View AAPM's 2011 Annual Meeting Schedule-at-a-Glance

New Preconference Session—Cadaver Workshop
AAPM adds this highly desired Cadaver Workshop to this year’s preconference sessions. Due to the high demand and complexity of such a session, space will be limited, and registration will be on a first come, first served basis. Watch your mail for more information regarding this new session.

New Patient-Centered Care Track
New to the conference this year, the Patient-Centered Care Track offers a renowned patient-centered approach to advancing and improving the continuum of pain care. These patient-centered scientific sessions will bridge the most advanced medical management therapies and protocols of specific pain disease conditions to the very latest advancements on the interventional pain frontier.

Prebook your Hotel Reservations now.

Annual Meeting Registration is now live!

Register Now

Pain Abstracts in the News

Driving Functions in a Video Simulator in Chronic Non-Malignant Pain Patients Using and Not Using Codeine
October 14, 2010 [Source: European Journal of Pain]
Abstract: Background and aims: A considerable number of Europeans suffer from chronic pain and are using opioids, particularly of the weak type. It is a clinical impression that many of these are driving or wish to drive a car. The aims of this study were to investigate if codeine influences driving ability in a simulator, and to examine if chronic pain per se might impair such functions.

Read more...

Total Migraine Freedom, a Potential Primary Endpoint to Assess Acute Treatment in Migraine: Comparison to the Current FDA Requirement Using the Complete Rizatriptan Study Database
October 12, 2010 [Source: Headache]
Abstract: Objective: To examine total migraine freedom (TMF), defined as pain freedom and absence of associated symptoms, using rizatriptan clinical trial data and to explore advantages of TMF as a single primary composite efficacy endpoint.

Read more...

A Case of Strictly Unilateral Migraine Without Aura Transformed in an Episodic Hemicrania Continua
October 6, 2010 [Source: Neurological Sciences]
Abstract: According to the diagnostic criteria of International Headache Society classification, hemicrania continua is a strictly unilateral continuous headache of moderate intensity with painful exacerbations associated with ipsilateral autonomic signs without pain-free periods.

Read more...

PubMed Pain Abstracts
The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov

**Effect of Preventive (beta blocker) Treatment, Behavioural Migraine Management, or Their Combination on Outcomes of Optimised Acute Treatment in Frequent Migraine: Randomised Controlled Trial**

BMJ. 2010 Sep 29;341:c4871. doi: 10.1136/bmj.c4871.

Holroyd KA, Cottrell CK, O'Donnell FJ, Cordingley GE, Drew JB, Carlson BW, Himawan L.
Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701, USA.

Abstract: OBJECTIVE: To determine if the addition of preventive drug treatment (β blocker), brief behavioural migraine management, or their combination improves the outcome of optimised acute treatment in the management of frequent migraine.

PMID: 20880898 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
Read more...
View article in PubMed Central in BMJ...

**Pain and Ketoprofen: What is its Role in Clinical Practice?**

Reumatismo. 2010;62(3):172-188.

Sarzi-Puttini P, Atzeni F, Lanata L, Bagnasco M, Colombo M, Fischer F, D'Imporzano M.
Rheumatology Unit, L. Sacco University Hospital, Milan, Italy.

Abstract: Ketoprofen is a drug belonging to the family of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). The present review examines the main available clinical evidence of ketoprofen in the treatment of acute and chronic pain, of both rheumatic and traumatic origin, as well as postoperative pain. Ketoprofen has shown to be an excellent choice of drug for the treatment of chronic pain in patients with osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis or gout, demonstrating a high level of efficacy with good tolerability also in elderly patients.

PMID: 21052564 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...
View related article in Reumatismo...

**VGLUT2-Dependent Glutamate Release from Nociceptors Is Required to Sense Pain and Suppress Itch**


Liu Y, Abdel Samad O, Zhang L, Duan B, Tong Q, Lopes C, Ji RR, Lowell BB, Ma Q.
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Department of Neurobiology, Harvard Medical School, 1 Jimmy Fund Way, Boston, MA 02115, USA.

Abstract: Itch can be suppressed by painful stimuli, but the underlying neural basis is unknown. We generated conditional null mice in which vesicular glutamate transporter type 2 (VGLUT2)-dependent synaptic glutamate release from mainly Nav1.8-expressing nociceptors was abolished.

PMID: 21040853 [PubMed - in process]
Read more...

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NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

The following studies and trials are posted at ClinicalTrials.gov

**Early Surgery or Standard Palliative Therapy in Treating Patients With Stage IV Breast Cancer**

This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First Received: November 16, 2010
Stated Purpose: RATIONALE: Early surgery may have fewer side effects and improve recovery. Palliative surgery or radiation therapy may help patients with advanced breast cancer live more comfortably. It is not yet known whether early surgery is more effective than palliative therapy for advanced breast cancer.

Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Hydrocodone Bitartrate Extended-Release Tablets (CEP-33237) for Relief of Moderate to Severe Pain in Patients With Osteoarthritis or Low Back Pain Who Require Opioid Treatment for an Extended Period of Time

This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First Received: November 10, 2010 Last Updated: November 12, 2010
Sponsor: Cephalon
Information provided by: Cephalon
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01240863
Stated Purpose: The primary objective of this study is to evaluate efficacy of hydrocodone extended-release tablets compared with placebo in alleviating moderate to severe pain in patients with osteoarthritis or low back pain as assessed by the weekly Average Pain Intensity (API) at week 12.

Care Management for the Effective Use of Opioids (CAMEO)
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First Received: November 5, 2010 Last Updated: November 10, 2010
Sponsor: Department of Veterans Affairs
Principal Investigator: Matthew J. Bair, MD MS, Richard Roudebush VA Medical Center
Information provided by: Department of Veterans Affairs
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01236521
Stated Purpose: The Care Management for the Effective use of Opioids (CAMEO) trial is a 2-arm randomized clinical trial to compare the effectiveness of pharmacological vs. behavioral approaches for chronic lower back pain. The study aims are: 1) to compare the interventions’ (PHARM vs. BEH) effects on pain intensity, function, and other pain relevant outcomes at 6 months (primary end point) and 12 months (sustained effect); and 2) to compare the cost-effectiveness of the interventions.

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