AAPM E-NEWS

February 11, 2011 - Your Latest News on the Specialty of Pain Medicine

LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

Pain in the News
Annual Meeting
Practice Management & Coding Updates
FDA News, Recalls & Warnings
Pain Research in the News
Pain Treatments/Trials in the News
AAPM Members in the News
Ethics
Scope of Practice
Pain Abstracts in the News
PubMed Pain Abstracts
NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

Pain in the News

Army, UW Team Up in Hope of Treating Vets’ Pain with Fewer Pills
February 10, 2011 [Source: The News Tribune]
AAPM Research Committee Co-Chair, Alex Cahana MD, discusses the new collaboration between the University of Washington, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Madigan Army Medical Center to develop a pain-management regimen for soldiers and veterans. Full story...

Students Applying to DO Schools Hit New Record
February 4, 2011 [Source: MedPage Today]
The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine reports that over 20 percent of the new U.S. medical students now study at osteopathic medical colleges and project 5,300 osteopathic physicians will graduate each year by 2015. It is hoped that this will help stem the projected physician shortages. Full story...

View related article in the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association...
View related article in the Journal of Medical Humanities...

Aching Back Sends More Than 3 Million to Emergency Departments
February 2, 2011 [Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)]
A new government report shows the overall inpatient stays principally for back problems was over $9.5 billion in 2008, making it the 9th most expensive condition treated in U.S. hospitals. Full story...

Back to top

Annual Meeting
AAPM's 27th Annual Meeting
Pain Medicine, D.C.
The Governing Voices of Pain: Medicine, Science, and Government
March 24 - 27, 2011 in National Harbor, MD
Pre-meeting activities begin Wednesday, March 23rd

Register Now

Speaker Search Now Available
Quickly search the name(s) of the Annual Meeting Faculty to find out session topics, dates, and times.

AAPM Annual Meeting Highlights
Preconference Sessions include Practice Management Opportunities for Interventionalists.

Preconference Session:
Ultrasound Guidance for the Pain Physician
This program will also provide hands-on application for the ultrasound novice to practice real-time techniques for common ultrasound procedures and review the available literature regarding feasibility, safety, and outcomes. More...

Register Now for the 2011 Annual Meeting
Hotel Reservations
Download 2011 Annual Meeting Brochure

Practice Management & Coding Updates

Medicare Physician Compare Website: Is Your Information Correct?
Emily Hill, PA
CMS launched the expanded Physician Compare website in January for the purpose of providing detailed information to beneficiaries about physicians and other providers who are enrolled in Medicare. Some physicians have discovered that their personal information on the Physician Compare website is inaccurate. The information listed on the Physician Compare website is based on data in the Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS). However, changes made to the PECOS information are not transmitted automatically to the Physician Compare website. CMS is aware of the issue and is in the process of correcting the problem. Read more...

2011 Common Pain Medicine CPT® Codes Now Available

Back to top
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PATIENT INFORMATION

Patient Education Videos Now Available Online
Online videos are now available in the Patient Center section of the AAPM website for your patients to view:

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 Pain Treatments/Trials in the News

FDA News, Recalls & Warnings

FDA Alert: Hydrocodone Bitartrate And Acetaminophen Tablets, Phenobarbital Tablets by Qualitest: Recall - Incorrect Package Labeling
February 7, 2011 [Source: FDA]
An individual bottle of Hydrocodone Bitartrate and Acetaminophen Tablets, USP 10mg / 500mg, NDC 0603-3888-20, 60 count was found incorrectly labeled with a Phenobarbital Tablets, USP 32.4 mg, NDC 0603-5166-32, 1000 count label, printed with Lot Number T150G10B. Both products are manufactured by Qualitest Pharmaceuticals. Full story...

Back to top

Pain Research in the News

Warming Pain Injections Can Reduce Pain
February 8, 2011 [Source: Los Angeles Times]
New research in the Annals of Emergency Medicine showed a "clinically meaningful reduction in pain" when the injection of painkiller was warmed, regardless of how the shot was administered or how large the injection. Full story...
View original article in the Annals of Emergency Medicine...

Assessing Pain in Nonresponsive Hospice Patients: Development and Preliminary Testing of the Multidimensional Objective Pain Assessment Tool (MOPAT)
February 8, 2011 [Source: University of Maryland, Baltimore]
Researchers at the University of Maryland School of Nursing developed the Multidimensional Objective Pain Assessment Tool (MOPAT), a standardize tool to help providers assess pain for patients who cannot self-report and are at risk for under-treatment of pain. Full story...
View original article in the Journal of Palliative Medicine...

Advanced Ultrasound Imaging in Pain Medicine
February 2011 [Source: PainMedicineNews.com]
Significant technological progress is leading the way for the development of new imaging techniques to improve the diagnosis and treatment of pain conditions such as diagnostic sonography, as well as fusion technology that provides real-time, 3-dimensional visualization and navigation tools for all stages of diagnosis and intervention. Full story (log-in required)...

Drug May Help in Managing Morphine Tolerance
January 28, 2011 [Source: International Anesthesia Research Society]
A study on rats that developed morphine tolerance, suggests that etanercept, a drug that blocks the inflammatory cytokine tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-alpha, restored up to 60 percent of their responsiveness to morphine. Full story...
View original article in Anesthesia & Analgesia...

Back to top

FDA Approves Gabapentin Once-Daily for Post-Herpetic Neuralgia
February 8, 2011 [Source: Modern Medicine]
Depomed's Gralise was approved by the FDA based on two Phase 3 trials, where it achieved a statistically significant reduction in the average daily pain score compared to placebo in patients suffering with post-herpetic neuralgia. Full story...

View related article in Diabetes Care...

EpiCept Reports Positive Results from EpiCept™ NP-1 Trial in Patients with Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy

February 7, 2011 [Source: BioSpace]

Results from Phase IIb trials of EpiCept™ NP-1, a topical analgesic cream containing amitriptyline and ketamine, in patients suffering from chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CPN), demonstrated that the change in average daily neuropathy intensity scores in the NP-1 group achieved statistically significant reductions in CPN intensity versus placebo (<0.001). Full story...

View related article in Cell Adhesion & Migration...

Final Results From ERGOFLEX Study Show Statistically Significant Reduction In Joint Pain In As Little As One Week

February 1, 2011 [Source: Medical News Today]

Results from an initial clinical study of ERGOFLEX, a joint health complex containing antioxidant, L-Ergothioneine (ERGO), found a statistically significant reduction in joint pain after as little as one week, with similar improvements in range of motion. Full story...

Back to top

AAPM Members in the News

Treating Chronic Pain and Managing the Bills


AAPM President-Elect, Perry G. Fine MD, comments in a New York Times article about chronic pain. Full story...

Physicians Say Good Riddance to 'Worst Drug in History'

February 2, 2011 [Source: Medscape]

AAPM President, Eduardo Fraifeld MD, discusses propoxyphene and Demerol in a recent article in Medscape. Full story (log-in required)...

Are Opioids Safe?

January 28, 2011 [Source: Medscape]

AAPM member, Charles E. Argoff MD, discusses the effective use of opioids and safe prescribing tips. Full story (log-in required)...

Back to top

Ethics
The Effect of Brief Electrical and Manual Acupuncture Stimulation on Mechanical Experimental Pain

Socioeconomic Status Influences the Relationship between Fear-Avoidance Beliefs Work and Disability

all topics slated for the February 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 driving the emerging field of pain medicine. A $79 value. Contact phenderson@connect2amc.com to receive your thank you for referring a new AAPM.

With membership at an unprecedented level, more than 2,400 physicians and their pain teams are part of this premier medical specialty society, practicing in pain medicine from origins in anesthesiology, neurosurgery, neurology, physiatry, and psychiatry. For more than 25 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.

JOIN AAPM NOW

German Medical Board Issues Sweeping Findings in Boldt Case
February 2011 [Source: Anesthesiology News]
The German medical board reports that about 90 published articles of Joachim Boldt MD, PhD might require retraction because Boldt failed to obtain approval from an institutional review board to conduct the research. Full story (log-in required)...
View Joint Letter from major anesthesia journals...

Back to top

Scope of Practice

California: CMA And CSA Seek Reversal Of Court Ruling On Nurse Anesthetists
February 4, 2011 [Source: California Medical Society]
The California Medical Association (CMA) and the California Society of Anesthesiologists (CSA) have filed an appeal to reverse the court’s decision that allows nurse anesthetists to administer anesthesia without physician supervision. Full story...

Back to top

Pain Abstracts in the News

Evidence for an Inherited Predisposition to Lumbar Disc Disease
Background: A genetic predisposition for the development of symptomatic lumbar disc disease has been suggested by several twin sibling studies and subsequent genetic marker studies. The purpose of the present study was to define population-based familial clustering among individuals with a diagnosis of, or treated for, lumbar disc herniation or disc degeneration.

Read more...
View PubMed Abstract...
View related article in European Spine Journal...
View related article in the International Journal of Biological Sciences...

American College of Physicians Issues Advice for High-Value Health Care for Diagnostic Imaging for Low Back Pain
February 1, 2011 [Source: Annals of Internal Medicine]
Abstract: Diagnostic imaging is indicated for patients with low back pain only if they have severe progressive neurologic deficits or signs or symptoms that suggest a serious or specific underlying condition. In other patients, evidence indicates that routine imaging is not associated with clinically meaningful benefits but can lead to harms.

Read more...
View related article at the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme (UK)...
View related article in the Cochrane Reviews...

Italian Registry on Long-Term Intrathecal Ziconotide Treatment: Retrospective Cohort Study
January/February 2011 [Source: Pain Physician]
BACKGROUND: Ziconotide is commonly used for intrathecal (IT) therapy of chronic pain, and has been recently indicated as a first-line IT drug. It is also extremely useful for patients intolerant or refractory to the common IT drugs (such as morphine). The literature, excluding registration studies, mostly includes small samples, and gives only fragmentary evidence on the long-term risks and benefits of ziconotide.

Read more...
Botulinum Toxin Injections for Low-Back Pain and Sciatica
January 19, 2011 [Source: Cochrane Reviews]

Abstract
Background: Adequate relief from low-back pain (LBP) is not always possible. Emerging evidence suggests a role for botulinum neurotoxin (BoNT) injections in treating pain disorders. Proponents of BoNT suggest its properties can decrease muscle spasms, ischemia and inflammatory markers, thereby reducing pain.

Read more...
View related article in the Cochrane Reviews...

PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov

Frovatriptan as Preemptive Treatment for Fasting-Induced Migraine
Latsko M, Silberstein S, Rosen N.
From the Thomas Jefferson University-Neurology/Headache, Jefferson Headache Center, Philadelphia, PA, USA (M. Latsko and S. Silberstein); Albert Einstein University-Neurology/Headache, New York, NY, USA (N. Rosen).
Abstract: Objective.- To examine frovatriptan's efficacy as preemptive treatment for fasting-induced migraine. Background.- Fasting is a common migraine trigger that cannot always be avoided. The development of a short-term preemptive approach would be of benefit. Because of its longer half-life, frovatriptan has been effectively used for short-term daily use to prevent menstrually related migraines and might prove useful in the prevention of fasting-induced migraine. Methods.- This was a double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized, parallel-group trial. Subjects.- With a history of fasting-induced episodic migraine were randomly assigned to receive either frovatriptan (5.0 mg) or placebo (ratio 1:1).
PMID: 21269298 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...
View Drug Class Review: Triptans at NCBI Bookshelf...

Sequential Analyses of Daily Symptoms in Women with Fibromyalgia Syndrome
Okifuji A, Bradshaw DH, Donaldson GW, Turk DC.
Pain Research and Management Center, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Utah, 615 Arapeen Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84108, USA.
Abstract: Fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS) is a chronic musculoskeletal pain disorder characterized by generalized pain, chronic fatigue, sleep disturbance, and a range of other symptoms having no definitive pathology. Consequently, patient evaluations rely on self-report. Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA) allows frequent real-time collection of self-report measures, removing recall bias and increasing external validity. We studied 81 females with FMS aged 18 to 42 years.
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Cardiovascular Safety of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs: Network Meta-Analysis

BMJ. 2011 Jan 11;342:c7086. doi: 10.1136/bmj.c7086.
Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Bern, Switzerland.

Abstract: OBJECTIVE: To analyse the available evidence on cardiovascular safety of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. DESIGN: Network meta-analysis. DATA SOURCES: Bibliographic databases, conference proceedings, study registers, the Food and Drug Administration website, reference lists of relevant articles, and reports citing relevant articles through the Science Citation Index (last update July 2009). Manufacturers of celecoxib and lumiracoxib provided additional data.

The Use of Rapid Onset Opioids for Breakthrough Cancer Pain: The Challenge of its Dosing

Mercadante S.
Anesthesia and Intensive Care Unit and Pain Relief and Palliative Care Unit, La Maddalena Cancer Center, Palermo, Italy; Department of Anesthesia, Intensive Care & Emergencies, University of Palermo, Italy.

Abstract: Breakthrough cancer pain (BTcP) has been defined as a transitory increase in pain intensity on a baseline pain of moderate intensity in patients on analgesic treatment regularly administered. This review provides updated information about the use of opioids for the treatment of BTcP, with special emphasis on the use of new rapid onset opioids (ROOs). Due to its slow onset to effect oral opioids cannot be considered an efficacious treatment for BTcP.

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The following studies and trials are posted at ClinicalTrials.gov

Safety and Preliminary Efficacy Study of Mesenchymal Precursor Cells (MPCs) in Subjects With Chronic Discogenic Lumbar Back Pain
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First Received: February 3, 2011 No Changes Posted
Sponsor: Mesoblast, Ltd.
Study Director: Roger Brown, Mesoblast, Ltd.
Information provided by: Mesoblast, Ltd.
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01290367
Stated Purpose: The purpose of this study is to compare two doses of immunoselected, culture-expanded, nucleated, allogeneic adult MPCs when combined with hyaluronic acid to a sham saline injection in subjects with
chronic low back pain due to mild-moderate Degenerative Disc Disease (DDD) at one lumbar level from L1 to S1.

**MC5-A Scrambler Therapy in Reducing Peripheral Neuropathy Caused by Chemotherapy**

This study is currently recruiting participants.

First Received: February 1, 2011 Last Updated: February 3, 2011

Sponsor: Mayo Clinic

Collaborator: National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Study Chair: Charles Loprinzi, M.D., Mayo Clinic

Information provided by: Mayo Clinic

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01290224

Stated Purpose: RATIONALE: Scrambler therapy may help relieve pain from peripheral neuropathy caused by chemotherapy. PURPOSE: This phase II trial is studying how well MC5-A scrambler therapy works in reducing peripheral neuropathy caused by chemotherapy

**”MILNACIPRAN” in Subjects With Chronic Shoulder Pain**

This study is ongoing, but not recruiting participants.

First Received: February 1, 2011 Last Updated: February 2, 2011

Sponsor: Delray Research Associates

Collaborator: Forest Laboratories

Principal Investigator: Philippe A Saxe, MD,FACP, Delray Research Associates

Information provided by: Delray Research Associates

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01289236

Stated Purpose: The purpose of this study is to compare the safety and efficacy of multiple doses of "Milnacipran" to a placebo dose in subjects with Chronic Shoulder Pain.

**Nitrous Oxide for Acute Migraine Pain in the Emergency Room (ED)**

This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.

Verified by Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, January 2011

First Received: January 28, 2011 Last Updated: January 31, 2011

Sponsor: Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota

Principal Investigator: Andrea Hoogerland, MD, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota

Information provided by: Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01287052

Stated Purpose: BACKGROUND Migraine headaches account for 8-18% of all headaches seen in pediatric emergency rooms. Standard treatment includes IV pain medications, anti-emetics, and IV fluids. Nitrous oxide has analgesic properties similar to those of opioids and is easy to administer. It has been shown in two small studies to be effective in treating migraine headaches.

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