June 2, 2011 - Your Latest News on the Specialty of Pain Medicine

LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

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Pain Research in the News

Led by Advances in Chemical Synthesis, Scripps Research Scientists Discover that a Rare Natural Product Has Potent Pain-Killing Properties

May 23, 2011 [Source The Scripps Research Institute]

Scientists at Scripps Laboratory have discovered a chemical means to access meaningful quantities of the rare natural product of conolidine that they hope will advance the scientific foundation to develop alternative treatments to commonly prescribed narcotics. Full story...

Substantial Recovery Rate with Placebo Effect in Headache Treatment

May 23, 2011 [Source: Elsevier Health Sciences]

Dutch researchers found that in clinical trials, the "no treatment" and placebo groups had a high overall recovery rate of 36 percent. The control groups in pharmacological trials showed a higher response rate than the behavioral (non-pharmacological) trials (38.5 percent vs. 15.0 percent). Full story...

Implant Jab Could Solve the Misery of Back Pain

May 19, 2011 [Source: University of Manchester]

Scientists at the University of Manchester in the U.K. have succeeded in linking microgel particles together to form injectable durable, elastic gels capable of sustaining large permanent changes in shape without breaking. Researchers hope this will be one step closer to producing injectable gels for minimally-invasive repair of intervertebral discs damaged from degeneration. Full story...

No pain. Big gain

May 17, 2011 [Source: McGill University]

Researchers at McGill University and McGill University Centre (MUHC) studied
the cortical thickness of the brain and brain activity of chronic low back pain patients before and after treatment through MRI scans to examine pain-related abnormalities. The team observed recovery in the anatomical function of the brain and its ability to function, hypothesizing that "if you can make pain go away with effective treatment, you can reverse abnormal changes in the brain."

**New Test for Pain Tolerance**  
*May 17, 2011* [Source: theage.com.au]
Research recently presented at the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) meeting in Hong Kong found that people's perception of pain and reaction to different painkiller drugs varied according to genetic make-up and ethnicity. Researchers hope to identify the full range of genes associated with pain and be able to tailor anesthetics and painkillers in the future. [Full story...](#)

**The Power of Placebos**  
*May 12, 2011* [Source: McGill University]
A recent survey of physicians and psychiatrists in Canadian medical schools found that one in five have administered or prescribed a placebo, with more than 60 percent of the responding psychiatrists indicating that they believe placebos can have therapeutic effects. [Full story...](#)

**Even Short-Term NSAID Use Risky in Cardiac Patients**  
*May 9, 2011* [Source: Medscape]
A recent study published online in *Circulation* found that the use of NSAIDs was associated with a 45 percent increased risk for death or recurrent myocardial infarction (MI) in the first 7 days of treatment and a 55 percent increased risk if treatment continued to 3 months. [Full story (login required)...](#)

**NIH Pain Consortium Symposium: When Pain Conditions Overlap**  
*May 4, 2011* [Source: Pain Research Forum]
The NIH Pain Consortium held its sixth annual research meeting on the topic of comorbid pain conditions. This article features several selected talks and links to a videocast of the entire day’s sessions. [Full story...](#)

**Dangerous Side Effect of Common Drug Combination Discovered by Stanford Data Mining**  
*May 25, 2011* [Source: Stanford]
Researchers at Stanford University School of Medicine, Vanderbilt University and Harvard Medical School found that a widely used combination of the antidepressant, Paxil, and cholesterol-lowering medication, Pravachol, may cause unexpected increases in blood glucose levels. [Full story...](#)

**High-Dose Methadone Boosts Cardiovascular Risk**  
*May 24, 2011* [Source: Medscape]
Researchers from Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City report that chronic pain patients receiving more than 120 mg per day of methadone showed significantly more QTc prolongation. [Full story (login required)...](#)
hydrocodone into the bloodstream at amounts equivalent to the reference listed drug Norco®. The prodrug is designed to reduce potential for abuse, as well as reduce opioid-induced constipation. Full story...

Bayer Hopes Fast-Acting Aspirin Rejuvenates Pain Relief Sales and Attracts Younger Users
Bayer’s Advanced Aspirin (500 mg) uses aspirin micro-particles about a tenth of the size of those in regular Bayer. The new formulation started working in 16 minutes and brought “meaningful pain relief” in 49 minutes, on average, compared with 100 minutes for the same dosage of regular Bayer. Full story...

Case Report: 8% Capsaicin Patch Relieves Neuropathic Foot Pain in Patient with 6-Year History
May 21, 2011 [Source: Monthly Prescribing Report]
A researcher at the University of Utah reports on a case study in which a patient that was suffering with neuropathic pain was treated with an 8 percent capsaicin patch (Quetenza). The patient reported a >50 percent reduction in pain at a one month follow-up. Full story...

Consider ER Oxymorphone in Patients with Chronic Low Back Pain, Comorbidities
May 6, 2011 [Source: Modern Medicine]
Results presented at AAPM’s recent Annual Meeting, showed that Endo Pharmaceuticals’ Opana ER (extended-release oxymorphone) may be a safe and effective alternative for patients with chronic low back pain (CLBP) with comorbidities such as hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. Full story...

Practice Management & Coding Updates

Understanding the Global Package Concept
Emily Hill, PA
A global fee for surgical procedures is a long established concept under which a single fee or code is reported for all the services normally furnished by a surgeon for a particular surgical procedure. This concept, termed the global package, has two primary definitions: the CPT definition and the Medicare definition. In addition, some third-party payers have developed their own definitions and apply their own payment policies. Full story...

AAPM Business

Call for Nominations: 2012-2013 Board of Directors and Nominating Committee
Deadline: June 23, 2011
The Academy is now inviting nominations for available 2012 positions on the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee. Nominees should be current, voting members of AAPM who are interested in and qualified for service in a leadership role.

Call for 2012 Awards Nominations
Deadline: June 23, 2011
The annual AAPM awards identify and celebrate the accomplishments of individuals whose endeavors improve the care of people with pain. Awards are presented at the AAPM annual meeting to those who contribute to the field of Pain Medicine in social, political, scientific, or clinical arenas. Please assist the AAPM Awards Committee in identifying the most deserving individuals for these 2012 awards. [Click here for more information...]

AAPM Members in the News

Elliot Krane Discusses the Mystery of Chronic Pain
May 19, 2011 [Source: Scope Blog, Stanford University School of Medicine]
AAPM Member, Elliot J. Krane MD, Director, Pain Management Service, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital, Palo Alto, California, explains the complexities of pain and how it becomes a disease in Scope, a Stanford University School of Medicine blog. [View video...]

NIH News

NIH Funded Pain Research Fosters Public-Private Collaborations
May 20, 2011 [Source: American Pain Society]
Patricia Grady PhD, RN, Director, National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). presented the NIH pain care agenda at the recent American Pain Society's Annual Meeting. [To view the key areas of the NIH pain care agenda...]

Clinical Trial News

New Recommendations from Public-Private Partnership Aim to Improve Clinical Trial Quality and Safety
May 20, 2011 [Source: Duke Medicine]
The Clinical Trials Transformation Initiative (CTTI), a partnership coordinated by Duke University Medical Center (DUMC), issued its first two recommendations, with the first focusing on the importance of prospectively building quality into the scientific and operational design, conduct, and analysis of clinical trials. The second project evaluated alternative approaches for reporting unexpected serious adverse events (SAEs). [Full story...]

Advocacy

Stand Up for Neuropathy
May 19, 2011 [Source: The Neuropathy Association]
The National Neuropathy Association began its first grassroots general letter writing campaign, "Stand Up for Neuropathy." The American Academy of Pain Medicine encourages its members to take a few moments to contact government leaders and let your voice be heard. [Click here to send your letter...]

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 effective 11/01/2010. [View this new presentation...]

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: May, 2011

Highlights:

EDITORIALS
Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs—Lack of Effectiveness or a Call to Action?

SPINE SECTION
Etiology of Chronic Low Back Pain in Patients Having Undergone Lumbar Fusion

PRIMARY CARE & HEALTH SERVICES SECTION
Primary Care Monitoring of Long-Term Opioid Therapy among Veterans with Chronic Pain

OPIOIDS, SUBSTANCE ABUSE & ADDICTIONS SECTION

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Long-Term Safety of Remoxy® (Extended-Release Oxycodone) in Patients with Moderate to Severe Chronic Osteoarthritis or Low Back Pain

ACUTE PAIN SECTION

View all topics slated for the April 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.

Costs of Pain

WHO Report Finds Headaches Have "Enormous" Costs
May 3, 2011 [Source: Reuters]
The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that 47 percent of all adults have a headache disorder and "the financial costs to society through lost productivity are enormous," citing 190 million days are lost every year because of migraine. Full story...

Substance Abuse & Addiction Research

Increase in Internet Access Parallels Growth in Prescription Drug Abuse
May 12, 2011 [Source: Massachusetts General Hospital]
Investigators at Massachusetts General Hospital and the University of Southern California found that the expansion in high-speed Internet access from 2000 to 2007 and online pharmacies as important factors leading to the rapid increase in the abuse of prescription drugs and increase in admissions for treatment of prescription drug abuse. Full story...

Pain Abstracts in the News

June 2011 [Source: Cochrane Review]
BACKGROUND: Non-invasive brain stimulation techniques aim to induce an electrical stimulation of the brain in an attempt to reduce chronic pain by directly altering brain activity. They include repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS), cranial electrotherapy stimulation (CES) and transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS). AIM: To evaluate the efficacy of non-invasive brain stimulation techniques in chronic pain. Read more...

Homer1a Signaling in the Amygdala Counteracts Pain-Related Synaptic Plasticity, mGluR1 Function and Pain Behaviors
May 19, 2011 [Source: Molecular Pain]
Background: Group I metabotropic glutamate receptor (mGluR1/5) signaling is an important mechanism of pain-related plasticity in the amygdala that plays a key role in the emotional-affective dimension of pain. Homer1a, the short form of the Homer1 family of scaffolding proteins, disrupts the mGluR-signaling complex and negatively regulates nociceptive plasticity at spinal synapses. Using transgenic mice overexpressing Homer1a in the forebrain (H1a-mice), we analyzed synaptic plasticity, pain behavior and mGluR1 function in the basolateral amygdala (BLA) in a model of arthritis pain. Read more...

Effective Treatment of Chronic Low Back Pain in Humans Reverses Abnormal Brain Anatomy and Function
May 18, 2011 [Source: The Journal of Neuroscience]
Abstract: Chronic pain is associated with reduced brain gray matter and impaired cognitive ability. In this longitudinal study, we assessed whether neuroanatomical and functional abnormalities were reversible and dependent on treatment outcomes. We acquired MRI scans from chronic low back pain (CLBP) patients before (n = 18) and 6 months after (spine surgery or facet joint...
Intrathecal Therapy for Cancer and Non-Cancer Pain Systematic Review

May/June 2011 [Source: Pain Physician Journal]

BACKGROUND: Intrathecal drug infusion therapy is usually considered when spinal-acting analgesics or antispasmodics administered via the oral or transdermal routes fail to control patients’ pain or are associated with unacceptable side effects. The intrathecal administration of centrally acting agents bypasses the blood-brain-barrier resulting in much higher cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) concentrations while using reduced amounts of medication to achieve equipotent doses.

Read more...

View related article in the Pain Physician Journal...
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Long-Term Controlled-Release Oxycodone and Pregabalin in the Treatment of Non-Cancer Pain: An Observational Study

May 17, 2011 [Source: European Neurology]

Abstract: Aims: This study evaluates the efficacy and tolerability of long-term controlled-release (CR) oxycodone + pregabalin in patients with non-cancer pain, in a real-life setting. Methods: Patients (n = 1,051) with chronic uncontrolled non-cancer pain received CR oxycodone + pregabalin for 1 year. Pain intensity was rated on an 11-point numerical rating scale (NRS) at months 1, 2, 4, 6, 9 and 12.

Read more...

Sensory Symptom Profiles and Co-Morbidities in Painful Radiculopathy

May 9, 2011 [Source: PLoSONE]

Abstract: Painful radiculopathies (RAD) and classical neuropathic pain syndromes (painful diabetic polyneuropathy, postherpetic neuralgia) show differences how the patients express their sensory perceptions. Furthermore, several clinical trials with neuropathic pain medications failed in painful radiculopathy.

Read more...

Does Long Term Use of Opioids improve Pain Scores?

Spring 2011 [Source: ASRA Annual Spring Pain Meeting & Workshops]

Introduction: Opioids analgesics continue to be the main stay of treatment of chronic non-malignant pain in today's era. Coupled with the recognition that they simultaneously improve mood and general functioning, it easily makes them the drug of choice in chronic pain management for non-malignant pain.

Read more...

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PubMed Pain Abstracts

The Analgesic Effect of Crossing the Arms

Pain. 2011 Mar 25. [Epub ahead of print]
Gallace A, Torta DM, Moseley GL, Iannetti GD., Department of Psychology, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy.

Abstract: The ability to determine precisely the location of sensory stimuli is fundamental to how we interact with the world; indeed, to our survival. Crossing the hands over the body midline impairs this ability to localize tactile stimuli. We hypothesized that crossing the arms would modulate the intensity of pain evoked by noxious stimulation of the hand. In two separate experiments, we
show (1) that the intensity of both laser-evoked painful sensations and electrically-evoked nonpainful sensations were decreased when the arms were crossed over the midline, and (2) that these effects were associated with changes in the multimodal cortical processing of somatosensory information.

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PMID: 21440992 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

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**Spinal Protein Kinase M (zeta) Underlies the Maintenance Mechanism of Persistent Nociceptive Sensitization**


Asiedu MN, Tillu DV, Melemedjian OK, Shy A, Sanoja R, Bodell B, Ghosh S, Porreca F, Price TJ, Departments of Pharmacology, Anesthesia, and Cellular and Molecular Medicine, Bio5 Institute, and Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience, The University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson, AZ 85721.

Abstract: Sensitization of the pain pathway is believed to promote clinical pain disorders. We hypothesized that the persistence of a sensitized state in the spinal dorsal horn might depend on the activity of protein kinase M ζ (PKMζ), an essential mechanism of late long-term potentiation (LTP).

PMID: 21543593 [PubMed - in process]

Read more...

**Blockade of Persistent Sodium Currents Contributes to the Riluzole-Induced Inhibition of Spontaneous Activity and Oscillations in Injured DRG Neurons**


Xie RG, Zheng DW, Xing JL, Zhang XJ, Song Y, Xie YB, Kuang F, Dong H, You SW, Xu H, Hu SJ, Institute of Neuroscience, Xi Jing Hospital, The Fourth Military Medical University, Xi'an, People's Republic of China.

Abstract: In addition to a fast activating and immediately inactivation inward sodium current, many types of excitable cells possess a nonincativating or slowly inactivating component: the persistent sodium current (I(NaP)). The I(NaP) is found in normal primary sensory neurons where it is mediated by tetrodotoxin-sensitive sodium channels. The dorsal root ganglion (DRG) is the gateway for ectopic impulses that originate in pathological pain signals from the periphery. However, the role of I(NaP) in DRG neurons remains unclear, particularly in neuropathic pain states.

PMID: 21541342 [PubMed - in process]

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PMCID: PMC3081829 Free PMC Article...

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**NIH Clinical Studies & Trials**

The following studies and trials are posted at ClinicalTrials.gov

**Efficacy and Safety of Oxycodone/Naloxone Controlled-release Tablets (OXN) Compared to Placebo in Opioid-experienced Subjects With Moderate to Severe Chronic Low Back Pain**

This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.

First Received on May 20, 2011.

Sponsor: Purdue Pharma LP

Information provided by: Purdue Pharma LP

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01358526

Stated Purpose: The primary objective of this study is to assess the efficacy and safety of OXN compared to placebo in opioid-experienced subjects with moderate to severe chronic low back pain.
moderate to severe pain due to chronic low back pain who require around-the-clock opioid therapy.

Efficacy at 16 Weeks and Long Term Safety, Tolerability and Efficacy up to 2 Years of Secukinumab (AIN457) in Patients With Active Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS)

This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First Received on May 19, 2011. Last Updated on May 20, 2011
Sponsor: Novartis
Information provided by: Novartis
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01358175
Stated Purpose: This study will assess the efficacy and safety of secukinumab in patients with active ankylosing spondylitis who are intolerant to or have had an inadequate response to NSAIDs, DMARDs and/or TNFα inhibitor therapy.

Safety and Efficacy Study of Botox in the Treatment of Forward Head Posture With Associated Episodic Headache Disorder

This study is currently recruiting participants.
First Received on May 6, 2011. No Changes Posted
Sponsor: The Research Center of Southern California
Information provided by: The Research Center of Southern California
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01350375
Stated Purpose: This study will investigate the therapeutic utility of BOTOX in reducing the degree of Forward Head Posture (FHP) with associated headache and myofascial pain, decreasing the frequency of headache, and improving the overall quality of life.

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