October 19, 2011 - Your Latest News on the Specialty of Pain Medicine

LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

Top Links
Health Reform News
Pain Research in the News
Pain Treatments/Trials in the News
Practice Management & Coding Updates
Drug Enforcement
Substance Abuse & Addiction Research
Costs of Pain
International Pain News
AAPM Members in the News
AAPM Business
Pain Abstracts in the News
PubMed Pain Abstracts
NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

Top Links

AAPM Offers New Patient Ed Videos
The AAPM website is host to new patient education videos to share and promote with your patients. Link to the AAPM website in your waiting/patient rooms or send the links to the videos in your regular patient communications. There are 21 topics available such as: What is Chronic Pain?; Describing the Pain; and Balancing the Patient's Life and Pain Therapy. Click here to link to the videos.

Back to top

Health Reform News

Voice Your Opinion on the SGR Repeal
September 2011 [Source: American Medical Association]
The AMA recently sent a sign-on letter to members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction urging them to include full repeal of the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) in the legislation they have been asked to approve by November 23, 2011. The AMA encourages physicians to do the same through the AMA's Physicians' Grassroots Network. Full story...
View Deficit Committee/SGR Repeal FAQs...

Back to top

Pain Research in the News
Researchers Block Morphine’s Itchy Side Effect
October 13, 2011 [Source: Washington University School of Medicine]

In experiments on mice, researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis identified a particular variant of the receptor called MOR1D that mediates itch. When this receptor was blocked in the mice, they no longer needed to scratch, but still had the same level of pain relief. Full story...

Headaches Take Toll on Soldiers
October 13, 2011 [Source: John Hopkins Medicine]

According to researchers at Johns Hopkins, one-third of the soldiers sent home from Iraq and Afghanistan due to headaches (the fastest-growing cause for evacuation) do not return to either place. Study leader and AAPM member, Steven P. Cohen MD, indicates better guidelines for the management of headaches, as well as better design of helmets to reduce strain on the occipital nerve are needed to help reduce this problem. Full story...

Exercise Just as Good as Drugs at Preventing Migraines, Swedish Study Suggests
October 11, 2011 [Source: ScienceDaily]

A new study in the journal Cephalagia found that "exercise can act as an alternative to relaxation techniques and topiramate when it comes to preventing migraines, and is particularly appropriate for patients who are unwilling or unable to take preventative medicines." Full story...

In Reversing Motor Nerve Damage, Time is of the Essence
October 3, 2011 [Source: Children's Hospital Boston]

In a study on mice, neuroscientists at Children's Hospital Boston found that there is about a five-week window for motor nerve fibers to regenerate and extend toward the muscle, re-forming the synapse. This has important implications for patients with motor nerve injuries, suggesting that waiting to intervene may not be the best course of action. Full story...

Study Finds Cognitive Strategies To Reduce Pain Involve Different Brain Systems
September 30, 2011 [Source: Medical News Today]

Vice President for Scientific Affairs, Sean Mackey MD PhD, was the senior study author of a study that examined patterns of brain activation in patients with chronic pain using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) during two common cognitive strategies, external focus of attention and reappraisal. The research showed that each one involved a different brain system with only a small amount of overlap, which may help explain why the effectiveness of cognitive strategies may vary in patients. Full story...

View original abstract in Anesthesiology...

New Approach to Management of Back Pain Reduces Disability and is Cheaper
September 29, 2011 [Source: Keele University, UK]

A recent study in The Lancet compared the clinical and cost effectiveness of a stratified or tailored approach to the management of patients with back pain in the primary care setting. At both 4 and 12 months patients in the stratified care group showed significant improvement in disability scores as well as achieving a lower average health-care cost, compared to the control group (which used best practice). Full story...

Rhode Island Hospital Researchers Find Possible Cardiovascular Risk with NSAID Use
September 26, 2011 [Source: Rhode Island Hospital]

In an animal model, researchers at Rhode Island Hospital suggest that there may be a strong risk of negative effects on the heart in patients with high...
in the pain clinic seeing patients and performing consults.

Outstanding Opportunity for Pain Medicine Physician in SW Ohio
Atrium Medical Center, US - OH
Private practice physician is seeking a BC/BE Interventional Pain Medicine physician to join practice that is expanding due to unprecedented growth in the Pain Medicine program.

Physician
Coastal Health Institute, US - AL
The center is seeking primary care or specialist interested in providing a holistic approach to pain management and rehabilitation.

More jobs...

Read this month’s President’s Message
Visit PainPoints
Pain Medicine’s new blog, and read posts by AAPM’s Director at Large, Gilbert Fanciullo MD, MS.

State-by-State Opioid Prescribing Policies on Medscape
View summary of state laws related to prescribing controlled substances.

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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cholesterol levels that use NSAIDs for pain or inflammation. Full story...

Back to top

Pain Treatments/Trials in the News

Archimedes Pharma Launches Lazanda® - the Only Fentanyl Nasal Spray for the Management of Breakthrough Pain in Cancer in the U.S.
October 17, 2011 [Source: Archimedes Pharma]
Lazanda®, a new fentanyl pectin nasal spray, is now available by prescription for the management of breakthrough pain in cancer patients 18 years of age and older who are already receiving and who are tolerant to opioid therapy. The new product will be available through a REMS program. Full story...

KRN5500 Demonstrated Significant Decrease in the Intensity of Neuropathic Pain in Patients with Cancer
October 10, 2011 [Source: DARA BioSciences]
Results from a Phase II safety and efficacy study of KRN5500 for the treatment of neuropathic pain in patients with cancer exhibited a significant median decrease in pain intensity from baseline of 24% compared with 0% for placebo (P=0.03). Full story...

Depomed Announces New Once-Daily GRALISE(TM) Now Available for After-Shingles Pain
October 10, 2011 [Source: MarketWatch]
A new once-daily treatment for postherpetic neuralgia (PHN), GRALISE™ is available by prescription in a 30-day starter pack, allowing for titration to full dose in 15 days, as well as bottles of 600 mg and 300 mg tablets. Full story...

NuPathe Inc. (PATH) Reports Positive Top-Line Results from 12-Month, Repeat Use Safety Trial for its Migraine Patch
October 3, 2011 [Source: ClinicaSpace]
Top-line results from NP101-009, an active, single-use, transdermal sumatriptan patch for the treatment of migraine, found that the incidence of adverse events (triptan sensations) was very low, with only four patients (0.8 percent) reporting a triptan sensation over the course of the 12-month trial. Full story...

Back to top

Practice Management & Coding Updates

Making Sense of Resource Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS)
Emily Hill, PA
Since January 1, 1992, Medicare pays for physician services under a standardized system that bases payments on the resource costs necessary to provide the service. This system is known as the Resource Based Relative Value Scale or RBRVS. In early November, CMS will be publishing its "Final Rule" which will detail payment levels and policy changes for 2012. In advance of that, it is a good time to review what RBRVS is all about. Full story...

Save the Date. AAPM will host its first Coding Webinar on Wednesday, December 14, 2011.

Back to top

Drug Enforcement
**Grand Jury Indicts 14 in L.A.-Based OxyContin Ring that Allegedly Distributed Over 1 Million Pills of the Highly Addictive Painkillers**

October 13, 2011 [Source: Department of Justice]

Fourteen defendants were named in a federal indictment that alleges they were members of a drug trafficking organization that illegally obtained and distributed more than 1 million OxyContin pills obtained largely through fraud against public insurance programs. [Full story...]

**Third DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, October 29, 2011**

The DEA will continue to hold Drug Take Back Days every six months, with the third scheduled for Saturday, October 29. [Click here to view specific state information...]

**Substance Abuse & Addiction Research**

**New Report Shows That on Average 15.6 Years Elapses Between When Adults in Treatment First Used a Substance and When They Were First Admitted for Treatment**

October 6, 2011 [Source: SAMHSA]

The new SAMHSA study showed that the average length of time between first use of a substance and first treatment entry was longer for males than females (16.5 years versus 13.8 years) and for prescription painkillers, the average was 7.8 years. [Full story...]

**Costs of Pain**

**Untreated Chronic Pain and Opioid Abuse Cost U.S. More Than $323 Billion Annually, New Study Shows**

October 4, 2011 [Source: Business Wire]

According to a new joint study by Laffer Associates and the Millennium Research Institute, the costs of chronic pain and prescription drug abuse directly and indirectly to U.S. taxpayers, insurers and employers are more than $323 billion annually, which they indicate could be reduced in part through the widespread implementation of Urine Drug Tests. [Full story...]

**International Pain News**

**Landmark WHO Headache Report Finds Enormous Impact, Major Gaps In Understanding**

October 2011 [Source: Pain Medicine News]

A new report by the World Health Organization (WHO), *Lifting the Burden: Atlas of Headache Disorders and Resources in the World 2011*, found that individuals who experience migraine headaches lose 1.3% of their lives to disability. [Full story...]

View WHO's Atlas of Headache Disorders and Resources in the World 2011...
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: October, 2011

Highlights:

REVIEW
Treatment of Refractory Pain with Botulinum Toxins—An Evidence-Based Review

ORIGINAL ARTICLES
Structural Etiology of Chronic Low Back Pain Due to Motor Vehicle Collision

Combination of Intrathecal Opioids with Bupivacaine Attenuates Opioid Dose Escalation in Chronic Noncancer Pain Patients

CNS Measures of Pain Responses Pre- and Post-Anesthetic Ketamine in a Patient with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome

RESEARCH ARTICLE
Pain Processing in Medication Overuse Headache: A Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) Study

CASE REPORT
Two Novel SCN9A Gene Heterozygous Mutations May Cause Partial Deletion of Pain Perception

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

AAPM Members in the News

The Scary New Migraine Mistake
October 10, 2011 [Source: More]

AAPM member, Joel Saper MD, discusses the problem among headache sufferers that have become addicted to painkillers for headache treatment. Full story...

Few Gains on Chronic Pain Treatment
September 26, 2011 [Source: Angie's List]

AAPM President, Perry G. Fine MD, comments on the importance of finding a physician that will listen, but also encourages the chronic pain patient to listen to their doctor’s advice, particularly if a multidisciplinary approach is suggested. Full story...

Back to top

AAPM Business

Polls for the 2012 AAPM Elections Are Open
There is still time to place your vote before the polls for the American Academy of Pain Medicine’s (AAPM) 2012 Elections close on Thursday, November 3, 2011.

To access the electronic ballot, visit the AAPM Member Center and click on the "Vote Now" icon on the right-side of the page. To log-in to the ballot, type in the AAPM User ID and password that were listed in the October 10 e-mail sent to you by AAPM.

If you need assistance with logging-in, please contact AAPM at (847) 375-4731.

Back to top

Pain Abstracts in the News

Brain Morphological Signatures for Chronic Pain
October 13, 2011 [Source: PLoSONE]

Abstract: Chronic pain can be understood not only as an altered functional state, but also as a consequence of neuronal plasticity. Here we use in vivo structural MRI to compare global, local, and architectural changes in gray matter properties in patients suffering from chronic back pain (CBP), complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) and knee osteoarthritis (OA), relative to healthy controls. We find that different chronic pain types exhibit unique anatomical ‘brain signatures’.

Read more...

Activity Patterns in Chronic Pain: Underlying Dimensions and Associations With Disability and Depressed Mood
October 2011 [Source: The Journal of Pain]

Abstract: Activity patterns are believed to play an important role in the development and perpetuation of chronic pain. So far, 3 important activity
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.

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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. Now in its 27th year, the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) continues to provide 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.

Opioid Titration and Conversion in Patients Receiving Morphine Sulfate and Naltrexone Hydrochloride Extended Release Capsules
September 2011 [Source: Postgraduate Medicine]
Abstract: Objective: To determine the number of steps and identify characteristics associated with attaining a stable dose of morphine sulfate and sequestered naltrexone extended release capsules (MS-sNT). Patients and Methods: Data from an open-label, long-term multicenter study designed to assess the safety of MS-sNT for managing chronic (≥ 3 m), moderate-to-severe pain were analyzed post hoc. Initial MS-sNT dose was 20 mg twice daily (BID) for opioid-naïve patients and 50% to 75% of current daily opioid dose for opioid-experienced patients.

Cardiovascular Risk with Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs: Systematic Review of Population-Based Controlled Observational Studies
September 2011 [Source: PLoS Medicine]
Abstract: Background: Randomised trials have highlighted the cardiovascular risks of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in high doses and sometimes atypical settings. Here, we provide estimates of the comparative risks with individual NSAIDs at typical doses in community settings.

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov

Nonopioid Placebo Analgesia is Mediated by CB1 Cannabinoid Receptors
Nat Med. 2011 Oct 2. doi: 10.1038/nm.2435. [Epub ahead of print]
Benedetti F, Amanzio M, Rosato R, Blanchard C.
Source: Department of Neuroscience, University of Turin Medical School and National Institute of Neuroscience (INN), Turin, Italy.
Abstract: Placebo analgesia is mediated by both opioid and nonopioid mechanisms, but so far nothing is known about the nonopioid component. Here we show that the specific CB1 cannabinoid receptor antagonist 5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-4-methyl-N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1H-pyrazole-3-carboxamide (rimonabant or SR141716) blocks nonopioid placebo analgesic responses but has no effect on opioid placebo responses. These findings suggest that the endocannabinoid system has a pivotal role in placebo analgesia in some circumstances when the opioid system is not involved.

Opioid Use, Misuse, and Abuse in Patients Labeled as Fibromyalgia
Fitzcharles MA, Ste-Marie PA, Gamsa A, Ware MA, Shir Y.
Source: Division of Rheumatology, McGill University Health Center, Montreal,
Abstract: BACKGROUND: As pain is the cardinal symptom of fibromyalgia, it is logical that treatments directed toward pain relief will be commonly used. Analgesic drug therapy remains the traditional treatment intervention for most chronic pain conditions, with a progressive increased use of opioids in the past 20 years. Concerns about efficacy, risk-benefit ratio, and possible long-term effects of chronic opioid therapy have been raised. There is limited information about opioid treatment in fibromyalgia, with all current guidelines discouraging opioid use.

Microneurographic Identification of Spontaneous Activity in C-Nociceptors in Neuropathic Pain States in Humans and Rats

Pain. 2011 Oct 10. [Epub ahead of print]
Serra J, Bostock H, Solà R, Aleu J, García E, Cokic B, Navarro X, Quiles C.
Source: Neuroscience Technologies, Parc Científic de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain; Department of Neurology, MC Mutual, Barcelona, Spain.
Abstract: C-nociceptors do not normally fire action potentials unless challenged by adequate noxious stimuli. However, in pathological states nociceptors may become hyperexcitable and may generate spontaneous ectopic discharges. The aim of this study was to compare rat neuropathic pain models and to assess their suitability to model the spontaneous C-nociceptor activity found in neuropathic pain patients. Copyright © 2011 International Association for the Study of Pain. Published by Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

Efficacy and Safety of Hydrocodone Bitartrate (HYD) in Subjects With Moderate to Severe Chronic Low Back Pain

This study is currently recruiting participants.
First Received on October 12, 2011.
Sponsor: Purdue Pharma LP
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Purdue Pharma LP
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01452529
Stated Purpose: The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the analgesic efficacy and safety of HYD tablets 20 to 120 mg once-daily dose compared to placebo in subjects with moderate to severe chronic low back pain uncontrolled by their current stable analgesic regimen.

Duloxetine for the Treatment of Chronic Pelvic Pain

This study is currently recruiting participants.
First Received on October 11, 2011.
Sponsor: University of Maryland
Principal Investigator: Joel Greenspan, Ph.D., University Of Maryland Dental School
Collaborator: Eli Lilly and Company
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Joel Greenspan, University of Maryland
Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

King Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Purdue Pharma L.P.

Maryland
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01451606
Stated Purpose: This study is examining the effectiveness of duloxetine as a treatment for chronic pelvic pain in women. Duloxetine is FDA approved for the treatment of other pain conditions, including fibromyalgia and diabetic neuropathy.

Read more...

Ropivacaine Block Alone or With Perineural or Systemic Dexamethasone for Pain in Shoulder Surgery
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First Received on October 7, 2011. No Changes Posted
Sponsor: Mayo Clinic
Information provided by (Responsible Party): David Rosenfeld, Mayo Clinic
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01450007
Stated Purpose: Pre-operative perineural injection of dexamethasone mixed with local anesthetic in peripheral nerve blockade for orthopedic surgery has been shown to prolong the length of analgesia, improve visual analog pain scores, decrease post-operative opioid use, and decrease post-operative nausea. No study has been published to determine if this effect is a result of systemic absorption of dexamethasone or is a local effect of the drug on neuronal activity at the injection site.

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Back to top

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