March 20, 2012 - Your Latest News on the Specialty of Pain Medicine

LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

AAPM Remembers Robert G. Addison MD
Practice Management & Coding Updates--Next Coding Webinar, March 28th

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AAPM Remembers

It is with sadness that AAPM informs its members of the passing of Robert G. Addison MD this past week in Florida. Dr. Addison was considered one of the founders in the field of Pain Medicine and served as AAPM's third President in 1987. More information will follow when available.

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Practice Management & Coding Updates

Reimbursement for Structured Substance Abuse Screening
Emily Hill PA, AAPM Coding Consultant

Substance abuse by patients is a concern for Pain Medicine physicians, the patient's family, and society at large. Recognizing potential abuse and directing patients for further evaluation and treatment are important steps in curbing this national problem. But is there a way for physicians to get reimbursed for the additional work associated with structured screening and intervention?

Full story...

Upcoming Webinar, March 28, 2012--Coding for Multiple Services on the Same Day Webinar - Tell Your Office Manager

Thursday, March 28, 2012, 1:00 – 2:30 PM EST
The first of four 2012 Coding for Pain Webinars will discuss how to properly report multiple services on the same day to ensure appropriate reimbursement. This 90-minute Webinar will be presented by coding experts Emily Hill PA and Fred Davis MD and includes a live Q & A session. Sign up for free iPad drawing. For more information...
Plan to attend AAPM's 2012 Coding Webinars:
Four 90-minute Coding for Pain Webinars by AAPM coding experts Fred Davis MD, Eduardo Fraifeld MD and Emily Hill PA will be held in 2012. All sessions will include a live Q&A session. Dates and topics are listed below.

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2012 Illustrated Coding and Billing for Anesthesia/Pain Management
by Contexto/media Now Available to AAPM Members at a Discount
To order...

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Pain Research in the News

Pain Complaints: When to Order a Skin Biopsy
March 14, 2012 [Source: Medscape]
AAPM member, Charles E. Argoff MD discusses the need to be vigilant in diagnosis when evaluating someone with peripheral extremity complaints. In this case study a skin biopsy led to a diagnosis of small-fiber neuropathy in a patient who had been treated acutely by orthopedic surgeons for bilateral compartment syndrome that developed as the result of an injury. Full story...(login required)

Prescribing Opioids For Older Short-Stay Surgery Patients Has Long-Term Usage Risk
March 12, 2012 [Source: Medical News Today]
Researchers at the University of Toronto found that "after multivariate adjustment, patients receiving an opioid prescription within seven days of surgery were approximately 44 percent more likely than those who received no prescription to become long-term opioids users." Full story...
View abstract in Archives of Internal Medicine...

Many with Cancer Pain Aren’t on Strong Painkillers
March 9, 2012 [Source: Reuters]
In a new study in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, researchers analyzed information over two years on all cancer patients over age 65 in Ontario, Canada, who had been screened for pain. The study showed that 20 percent reported that they had severe pain, but only about one in three ended up taking opioids. Researchers said it was unclear whether it was physicians not prescribing the medications or the patients not filling them. Full story...
View abstract in the Journal of Clinical Oncology...
Iraq, Afghanistan Veterans With Pain, PTSD Prescribed More Opiates Than Other Veterans With Pain
March 6, 2012 [Source: University of California, San Francisco]
A study led by researchers at the San Francisco VA Medical Center and the University of California, San Francisco found that veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health diagnoses were significantly more likely to be prescribed opiates for pain than other veterans with pain. The study authors recommend that the VA continue to extend its current stepped approach to treating patients who have both pain and PTSD. Full story...

Where Pain Lives: Race and Neighborhood Status Linked with Worse Chronic Pain
March 1, 2012 [Source: University of Michigan Health System]
A study by researchers at the University of Michigan Health System found that living in a lower socioeconomic neighborhood was associated with increased sensory, affective and other pain, pain-related disability and mood disorders such as depression and anxiety. The study included 3,730 adults, all under age 50. Full story...

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Pain Treatments/Trials in the News

FDA Panel Says Pain Drug Trials Should Continue
March 12, 2012 [Source: Reuters]
A panel of advisers to the FDA voted unanimously that drugs from the class of anti-nerve growth factors should be allowed to continue clinical trials because of the drugs' unique benefits to treat pain. The panel recommended that the trials try to exclude patients that may be predisposed to joint problems. The clinical trials of the drugs were halted in 2012 after nearly 500 people taking the drugs had to have joints replaced. Full story...

FDA Turns Down Capsaicin Patch for Painful Neuropathy in HIV
March 9, 2012 [Source: Medscape]
The FDA approved the expanded indication of the capsaicin 8% patch (Qutenza, NeurogesX, Inc.) for the treatment of pain related to peripheral neuropathy in patients with HIV. Full story...(login required)

New Treatment May Reduce Opioid-Induced Constipation in Critical Care Patients
March 1, 2012 [Source: Elsevier, Mayo Clinic Proceedings]
A small retrospective study in a recent issue of Mayo Clinic Proceedings found that methylnaltrexone (MNTX), a peripheral opioid antagonist, was very effective in producing laxation when compared with conventional laxatives in critically ill patients. The study showed laxation occurring within 24 hours in 6 of the 7 patients, compared with none of the 8 patients in the conventional therapy group (received sodium picosulfate and glycerin suppositories). Full story...

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Prescription Monitoring Programs

Pharmacists in NM Face New Reporting Requirement
March 13, 2012 [Source: krqu.com]
Beginning in April, pharmacists and other practitioners in New Mexico who dispense controlled substances will be required to report to the state’s prescription monitoring program at least once every 7 days instead of the current requirement of once every 30 days. Full story...

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Annual Meeting

Top News From AAPM 2012: Slideshow
February 23-26, 2012 [Source: Medscape]

Long-Acting Opioids May Trigger Hypogonadism
March 7, 2012 [Source: Internal Medicine News]

New Evidence Supports Positive Outcomes of Cooled Radiofrequency Therapy for Low Back Pain
March 12, 2012 [Source: Kimberly-Clark Health Care]

Side Effects Challenge Opioid Therapy for Acute Pain
March 8, 2012 [Source: The Oncology Report]

AAPM Annual Meeting Quick Pulse
February 2012 [Source: Trends in Medicine]
A recap from this year's meeting discusses the decrease of pain medications in the pipeline and the FDA approval process for tamper-resistant formulations. Balanced prescribing, the future of pain medicine, and the ethics surrounding pain medicine were also important topics tackled by today's leaders in the field of Pain Medicine. For more information...

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AAPM Members in the News

Halt the Hurt! Dealing with Chronic Pain
March 9, 2012 [Source: NIH News in Health]
AAPM Vice President for Scientific Affairs, Sean Mackey MD PhD, comments in a recent NIH monthly newsletter News in Health about current research in chronic pain. Full story...

Balanced Prescribing

Second Annual Survey Finds 83% of Washingtonians Still Living With Pain and Majority Underestimate Its Impact
March 15, 2012 [Source: American Osteopathic Association]
A survey by the American Osteopathic Association reports that one in two Washingtonians believe pain is just a part of life, and one in four do not believe it can be eased with proper treatment. Full story...

Painkiller Access Debated as Patients Suffer
March 8, 2012 [Source: Huffington Post]
The final installment of a three-part series in the Huffington Post continues the debate on balanced prescribing. Full story...
Advocacy

AAPM State Representatives Reach Out to the Senate H.E.L.P. Committee

AAPM State Representatives were sent the tools needed to communicate with their State Senators serving on the Senate H.E.L.P Committee, urging them to attend the Senate H.E.L.P Committee Hearing on Pain Research & Care, held February 14, 2012.

To view a recording of the hearing...

Drug Take-Back Events

National Take-Back Initiative April 12, 2012

January 2012 [Source: DEA]

The next DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day will take place across the country on Saturday, April 28, 2012, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. The DEA will post the locations in March. Full story...

Pain Abstracts in the News

Back Pain: A Real Target for Spinal Cord Stimulation?

March 2012 [Source: Neurosurgery]

Abstract: BACKGROUND: Failed back surgery syndrome represents one of the most frequent etiologies of chronic back pain and is a major public health issue. Neurostimulation has currently not been validated in the treatment of back pain because of technological limitations in implantable spinal cord stimulation (SCS) systems. New-generation leads using several columns of stimulation can generate longitudinal and/or transverse stimulation fields into the spinal cord.

Read more...

Physical Comorbidity of Migraine and Other Headaches in US Adolescents

March 1, 2012 [Source: The Journal of Pediatrics]

Abstract: Objective: To examine the pattern and extent to which other physical conditions are comorbid with migraine and other headaches in youth in a representative sample of the US population.

Read more...

Craving of Prescription Opioids in Patients With Chronic Pain: A Longitudinal Outcomes Trial

February 2012 [Source: The Journal of Pain]

Abstract: Little is known about whether patients with chronic pain treated with opioids experience craving for their medications, whether contextual cues may influence craving, or if there is a relationship between craving and medication compliance. We hypothesized that craving for prescription opioids would be significantly correlated with the urge for more medication, preoccupation with the next dose, and current mood symptoms.

Read more...

Translational Investigation and Treatment of Neuropathic Pain
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: March, 2012

Highlights:

EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARY
PMPs and Rx Drug Abuse—Encouraging Signs but Is It Every Man for Himself?

SPINE SECTION
Long-Term Effect of Pulsed Radiofrequency on Chronic Cervical Radicular Pain Refractory to Repeated Transforaminal Epidural Steroid Injections

PALLIATIVE CARE SECTION
Switching Methadone: A 10-Year Experience of 345 Patients in an Acute Palliative Care Unit

ETHICS SECTION
The Ethics of Pain Clinical Trials on Persons Lacking Judgment Ability: Much to Improve

ACUTE PAIN SECTION
Beneficial Effect of Amantadine on Postoperative Pain Reduction and Consumption of Morphine in Patients Subjected to Elective Spine Surgery

View 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

March 9, 2012 [Source: Molecular Pain]

Abstract (provisional): Neuropathic pain develops from a lesion or disease affecting the somatosensory system. Translational investigations of neuropathic pain by using different animal models reveal that peripheral sensitization, spinal and cortical plasticity may play critical roles in neuropathic pain. Furthermore, descending facilitatory or excitatory modulation may also act to enhance chronic pain.
Read more...

Changes in Regional Gray Matter Volume in Women with Chronic Pelvic Pain: a Chronic Pelvic Pain: a Voxel-Based Morphometry Study
March 5, 2012 [Source: Pain®]

Abstract: Chronic pelvic pain (CPP) is a highly prevalent pain condition, estimated to affect 15%–20% of women in the United States. Endometriosis is often associated with CPP, however, other factors, such as preexisting or concomitant changes of the central pain system, might contribute to the development of chronic pain. We applied voxel-based morphometry to determine whether women with CPP with and without endometriosis display changes in brain morphology in regions known to be involved in pain processing.
Read more...

PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov

Cannabinergic Pain Medicine: A Concise Clinical Primer and Survey of Randomized-controlled Trial Results
Aggarwal SK. Source: Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, New York University, New York, NY.

Abstract: OBJECTIVES: This article attempts to cover pragmatic clinical considerations involved in the use of cannabinergic medicines in pain practice, including geographical and historical considerations, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, adverse effects, drug interactions, indications, and contraindications. Topics include molecular considerations such as the 10-fold greater abundance of cannabinoid type 1 receptors compared to µ-opioid receptors in the central nervous system and anatomic distributions of cannabinoid receptors in pain circuits.

PMID: 22367503 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

Opioid Prescription After Pain Assessment: A Population-Based Cohort of Elderly Patients With Cancer
J Clin Oncol. 2012 Feb 27. [Epub ahead of print]
Barbera L, Seow H, Husain A, Howell D, Atzema C, Sutradhar R, Earle C, Sussman J, Liu Y, Dudgeon D. Source: Lisa Barbera, Amna Husain, Doris Howell, Clare Atzema, Rinku Sutradhar, and Craig C. Earle, University of Toronto; Lisa Barbera, Hsien Seow, Clare Atzema, Rinku Sutradhar, Craig C. Earle, and Ying Liu, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences; Amna Husain, Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care, Toronto; Hsien Seow and Jonathan Sussman, McMaster University; Hsien Seow and Jonathan Sussman, Supportive Cancer Care Research Unit, Hamilton; and Deborah Dudgeon, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

Abstract: PURPOSEThe purpose of this study was to measure opioid prescription (OP) rates in elderly cancer outpatients around the time of assessment for pain and to evaluate factors associated with receiving OPs for
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 unprecedented membership, 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.

A Study To Characterize The Pharmacokinetics Of Oxycodone In Healthy Volunteers (B4501018)
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First Received on March 9, 2012. Last Updated on March 15, 2012
Sponsor: Pfizer
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Pfizer
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01552863
Stated Purpose: This is an open-label (both the physician and healthy volunteer...
know which medication will be administered), single-dose, 4- or 5- dosing
period study to characterize the pharmacokinetics of oxycodone (process by
which oxycodone is absorbed, distributed, metabolized, and eliminated by the
body). This study will consist of two parts that will take place over 64 days. Part
1 of the study has 4 dosing periods, while Part 2 has one dosing period.

**Precision Retrospective Outcomes (PRO)**

This study is currently recruiting participants.

*First Received on March 5, 2012. Last Updated on March 7, 2012* History of
Changes

**Sponsor:** Boston Scientific Corporation

**Information provided by (Responsible Party):** Boston Scientific Corporation

**ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier:** NCT01550575

**Stated Purpose:** This study will evaluate deidentified (anonymous) data in
subject medical charts to review the clinical outcomes of spinal cord stimulation.

**Read more...**

**Novel Use of (Oral) Ketotifen for the Treatment of Fibromyalgia:
A Pilot Study (KetoforFMS)**

This study is currently recruiting participants.

*First Received on March 1, 2012. Last Updated on March 12, 2012*

**Sponsor:** Indiana University

**Principal Investigator:** Dennis C. Ang, MD, Indiana University

**Information provided by (Responsible Party):** Indiana University

**ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier:** NCT01553318

**Stated Purpose:** The purpose of this 10-week study is to determine the effects
of a medication called Ketotifen on inflammation (blood) markers; pain
sensitivity; and fibromyalgia-related pain.

**Read more...**

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