AAPM E-NEWS

AAPM 2013 Annual Meeting:
Call for Proposals for Education Sessions in Fort Lauderdale, FL is available now through May 15.
For more details ...

Plan to attend next year’s Annual Meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, April 11-14, 2013.
For more information...

AAPM’s Education Receives ACCME’s Accreditation with Commendation Full story...

LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

Pain Research in the News
Pain Treatments/Trials in the News
Practice Management & Coding Updates
New Guidelines
State Legislative News
Annual Meeting Coverage
NIH News
Pain in the News
Specialty Recognition
Substance Abuse & Addiction Research
AAPM Members in the News
Drug Take-Back Events
Pain Abstracts in the News
PubMed Pain Abstracts
NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

Ketamine Relieves Pain at End of Life
April 9, 2012 [Source: Family Practice News]
A session at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine addressed the use of ketamine and the variety of administration routes and dosing protocols in the palliative care setting. Full story...

British University Scientists: Pain Relief 'Cuts Heart Attack Victims' Survival Chances'
April 7, 2012 [Source: The Observer]
Researchers at Bristol University found that when a blood clot blocks an artery that is serving the heart with oxygen during a heart attack, pain signals from cardiac nerves help to attract stem cells to repair the damage. However, morphine is often used to relieve the pain, but may be blocking the pain signals that stimulate stem cell activity in the artery walls. Full story...
View abstract in the journal, Circulation...

Cone Snail Venom Controls Pain
April 4, 2012 [Source: University of Bonn]
Researchers in Germany identified the structure of different µ-PIIIA conotoxin variants and their different effects using nuclear magnetic resonance. The conotoxins were able to interrupt the transmission of signals in nerve paths in a highly selective manner and block pain without causing dependency. Full story...

Researchers Reveal Why Some Pain Drugs Become Less Effective Over Time
April 4, 2012 [Source: University of Montreal's Sainte-Justine Hospital]
Designate AAPM on Your AMA Membership Ballot

If you are an AMA member, you should be receiving your Memberships Benefits in the mail shortly. Please take a moment and complete your Specialty Society Representation Ballot, either with the self-addressed postcard or on the Internet at www.ama-assn.org/go/ballot.

BE SURE TO DESIGNATE AAPM. It is very important that we have sufficient AAPM members identified for compliance. Thank you.

Pain Treatments/Trials in the News

Positive Top-Line Results from Phase 3 Long-term, Open-label Safety and Efficacy Trial of Lubiprostone in Opioid-Induced Bowel Dysfunction Patients
April 5, 2012 [Source: MarketWatch]
No serious adverse events were reported in a Phase 3 open-label study of 36 week's duration of Sucampo Pharmaceuticals' lubiprostone in opioid-induced bowel dysfunction patients with chronic, non-cancer-related pain. With this data, the company is now preparing a supplemental new drug application. Full story...

Bioness Initiates Study of Neuromodulation System for Chronic Peripheral Nerve Pain
April 9, 2012 [Source: MarketWatch]
Bioness Inc. will begin a study to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of its StimRouter™ Neuromodulation System for those suffering from chronic peripheral pain. Full story...

Unigene's Proprietary Oral Peptide Delivery Platform is Further Validated with Cara Therapeutics' Successful Completion of its Phase 1 Study Using Unigene's Oral Formulation of Novel Kappa Opioid Receptor Agonist, CR845
April 3, 2012 [Source: BioSpace]
The first-in-man Phase 1 clinical trial using Unigene's oral formulation of Cara's CR845 (a peptide-based, peripherally-restricted kappa opioid receptor agonist) demonstrated a mean oral bioavailability of 16 percent across all groups under fasting conditions, with peak and total exposures proportional to each dose. Full story...

Nektar Doses First Subjects in Phase 1 Clinical Study Evaluating NKTR-192, a New Short-Acting Opioid Molecule for the Treatment of Acute Pain
April 2, 2012 [Source: BioSpace]
The Phase 1 clinical study of Nektar Therapeutics' NKTR-192, a novel short acting mu-opioid analgesic candidate, will assess the safety and the pharmacokinetics profile of various dosages to design future studies. Full story...

ACTIQ® Announces a Single Shared REMS for all TiRF Medicines
March 12, 2012 [Source: ACTIQ.com]
ACTIQ® (fentanyl citrate, oral transmucosal lozenge [C-II]) announced that starting on March 12, 2012, one Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) will replace the individual REMS for Transmucosal Immediate-Release...
Fentanyl (TIRF) medicines and can only be dispensed to patients enrolled in the TIRF REMS Access program. Full story...
View the TIRF REMS Access Program...

Back to top

Practice Management & Coding Updates

Understanding Add-On Codes
Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant
Many injection services performed by Pain Medicine physicians are reported by families of CPT codes that utilize "stand-alone" and "add-on" codes. Stand-alone codes describe a total service, while add-on codes must always be reported in addition to a primary code. Add-on codes can never be reported alone. Add-on codes are identified in CPT with a + symbol. Full story...

HHS Announces ICD-10 Delay
April 9, 2012 [Source: MedPage Today]
HHS has extended the deadline for implementing the new ICD-10 diagnosis coding system to October 1, 2014. Full story...
View ICD-10 Proposed Rule...

Plan to attend AAPM's 2012 Coding Webinars:
The following 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 20, 2012</td>
<td>Medicare Guidelines for Documenting E/M Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 26, 2012</td>
<td>Principles of ICD-10 Coding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12, 2012</td>
<td>Coding Update for 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Back to top

New Guidelines

American College of Rheumatology 2012 Recommendations for the Use of Nonpharmacologic and Pharmacologic Therapies in Osteoarthritis of the Hand, Hip, and Knee
April 2012 [Source: Arthritis Care & Research]
Abstract: Objective: To update the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) 2000 recommendations for hip and knee osteoarthritis (OA) and develop new recommendations for hand OA. Conclusion: These recommendations are based on the consensus judgment of clinical experts from a wide range of disciplines, informed by available evidence, balancing the benefits and harms of both nonpharmacologic and pharmacologic modalities, and incorporating their preferences and values.
Read more...
To view guidelines...

Back to top
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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State Legislative News

Beshear Orders Lawmakers Back to Frankfort at Noon Monday
April 13, 2012 [Source: Kentucky.com]
The Kentucky State Senate did not pass a bill that would more closely regulate pain management clinics and transfer the state’s PMP to the attorney general’s office from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services before ending their 60-day session. Kentucky Governor Beshear ordered lawmakers to return next week to tackle these issues. Full story...

NY Leaders Negotiate Prescribed Drugs Restrictions
April 10, 2010 [Source: Business Week]
New York’s Attorney General Eric Schneiderman introduced legislation that includes a real time online database, the Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing (I-STOP), which would help crack down on doctor shopping and Rx forgeries. New York lawmakers will return on April 17 for a two-month session. Full story...

Walgreen Pharmacies Draw Scrutiny in Florida Pill Investigation
April 6, 2012 [Source: Miami Herald]
The DEA is investigating a Walgreen’s distribution center and several retail stores in Florida due to an increase in oxycodone sales. Full story...

Kentucky PMP Executes Agreement to Participate in NABP PMP InterConnect
April 4, 2012 [Source: National Association of the Boards of Pharmacy]
The Kentucky prescription monitoring program (PMP), known as the Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting (KASPER) program has executed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with NABP to participate in the NABP InterConnect. Full story... View PMP InterConnect Map...

Annual Meeting Coverage

Single Question Flags Depression in Chronic Pain
April 3, 2012 [Source: Internal Medicine News]
A poster presented at this year’s annual meeting analyzed the data from the National Epidemiologic Study for Alcohol and Related Conditions and found that a single question identified those with comorbid depression with a sensitivity of 84 percent and a specificity of 43 percent. Full story...

Pain Specialists Seek Help from Primary Care
March 28, 2012 [Source: Family Practice News Digital Network]
AAPM Treasurer, Bill McCarberg MD, spoke at this year’s Annual Meeting about the future involvement of primary care physicians in the treatment of chronic pain patients. Full story...

To view more media coverage of the 2012 AAPM Annual Meeting...

Back to top

NIH News

Request for Information (RFI): Input into the Scientific Strategic Plan for the Proposed National Institute of Substance Use and Addiction Disorders
AAPM Vice President for Scientific Affairs, Sean Mackey MD PhD,
encourages AAPM members to let the NIH know why the new combined National Institute of Substance Use and Addiction Disorders should continue to fund pain research. The committee reviews the comments and makes policy/funding decisions. The deadline for the RFI is May 11, 2012. For more information...

AAPM President-Elect Lynn R. Webster MD comments: “Everyone should read The Emperor of All Maladies to see how important lobbying and public/professional advocacy is in public funding and priorities for our concerns and the patients we represent. It won't happen unless we make Congress and NIH know the importance of this issue to most Americans.” Please do your part today and participate in this RFI.

The Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee (IPRCC)
March 27, 2012 [Source: NIH]
The Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee held its inaugural meeting on March 27, 2012. AAPM’s Vice President for Scientific Affairs, Sean Mackey MD, PhD, serves on the committee as a scientific member, although he does not represent AAPM in this capacity. To view the VideoCast of the meeting…

Back to top

Pain in the News

Pain and Pain Medication Abuse: Two Epidemics in Tension
April 12, 2012 [Source: Huffington Post]
This Huffington Post Blog addresses not only the abuse/addiction epidemic, but the undertreatment of pain, also highlighting the underfunding of prescription monitoring programs. Full story...

People with Legitimate Pain Deserve Lives Worth Living
April 12, 2012 [Source: The Orlando Sentinel]
Myra Christopher, a committee member on the IOM’s report on pain, discusses the recent changes in Florida laws to help curb prescription drug abuse and their effect on pain patients and the physicians who treat them. Full story...

Pain Med Addiction Afflicts the Elderly
April 11, 2012 [Source: The Riverdale Press]
The most drastic increase in addiction to pain medication in New York City between 2004 and 2009 was among the elderly and those that are living independently are particularly at risk. Full story...

Tightening the Lid on Pain Prescriptions
April 8, 2012 [Source: The New York Times]
This article examines the ramifications of the new Washington state laws on both the physician and the pain patient. Full story...

Back to top

Specialty Recognition

ACGME To Change Standards For How Residents Are Measured
March 2012 [Source: General Surgery News]
ACGME announced its next accreditation system (NAS) for graduate medical education that is centered on six domains of clinical competency, developed in concert with the American Board of Medical Specialties. The six domains include patient care and technical skills; medical knowledge; professionalism; interpersonal communication; systems-based practices; and practice-based
Exploration of the Relationship Between Disability Perception, Preference for Death over Disability, and Suicidality in Patients with Acute and Chronic Pain

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.

AAPM Members in the News

Joel Saper MD Named 2012 Legacy Society Honoree
March 27, 2012 [Source: AnnArbor.com]
AAPM Member, Joel Saper MD was named the 2012 Legacy Society Honoree by the Brain Injury Association of Michigan. Dr. Saper is founder and director of the Michigan Head Pain and Neurological Institute based in Ann Arbor, MI. Full story...

Drug Take-Back Events

National Take-Back Initiative April 28, 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. Full story...

Pain Abstracts in the News

Antidepressants and the Relief of Osteoarthritic Pain – Findings from a Study Examining Adjunctive Duloxetine
March 21, 2012 [Source: The International Journal of Clinical Practice]
Abstract: Antidepressant treatments have been used to manage pain syndromes. Duloxetine received US FDA approval in 2010 for the indication of chronic musculoskeletal pain, including osteoarthritis (OA). The mechanism of action is thought to be related to the amelioration of central pain pathway dysfunction through actions at serotonin and norepinephrine transporters; thus, the mechanism of action is notably different from those of opioids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Read more...

Characterisation of a Peripheral Neuropathic Component of the Rat Monoiodoacetate Model of Osteoarthritis
March 21, 2012 [Source: PLoS ONE]
Abstract: Joint degeneration observed in the rat monoiodoacetate (MIA) model
of osteoarthritis shares many histological features with the clinical condition. The accompanying pain phenotype has seen the model widely used to investigate the pathophysiology of osteoarthritis pain, and for preclinical screening of analgesic compounds.

Read more...

**Sedatives and Alcohol Increase Risk for Pain Medication Adverse Events**
*March 2012 [Source: The Journal of Pain]*

Abstract: Taking opioids with other central nervous system (CNS) depressants can increase risk of oversedation and respiratory depression. We used telephone survey and electronic health care data to assess the prevalence of, and risk factors for, concurrent use of alcohol and/or sedatives among 1,848 integrated care plan members who were prescribed chronic opioid therapy (COT) for chronic noncancer pain.

Read more...

**New Targets in Pain, Non-Neuronal Cells, and the Role of Palmitoylethanolamide**
*February 29, 2012 [Source: The Open Pain Journal]*

Abstract: Persistent pain in neuropathic conditions is often quite refractory to conventional analgesic therapy, with most patients obtaining, at best, only partial relief of symptoms. The tendency still exists to treat these complex pains with one or a combination of two analgesics at the most. Given the complex nature of the underlying pathogenesis, this approach more often than not fails to produce a meaningful improvement. New targets are therefore badly needed. In this regard non-neuronal cells – glia and mast cells in particular - are emerging as new targets for the treatment of neuropathic pain.

Read more...

[Back to top](#)

**PubMed Pain Abstracts**

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

**Dissociation of Motor Task-Induced Cortical Excitability and Pain Perception Changes in Healthy Volunteers**

Volz MS, Mendonca M, Pinheiro FS, Cui H, Santana M, Fregni F. Source: Laboratory of Neuromodulation, Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America.

Abstract: BACKGROUND: There is evidence that interventions aiming at modulation of the motor cortex activity lead to pain reduction. In order to understand further the role of the motor cortex on pain modulation, we aimed to compare the behavioral (pressure pain threshold) and neurophysiological effects (transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) induced cortical excitability) across three different motor tasks.

PMID: 22470548 [PubMed - in process]

Read more...


**Janus Molecule I: Dichotomous Effects of COMT in Neuropathic vs. Nociceptive Pain Modalities**
*CNS Neurol Disord Drug Targets. 2012 Apr 4. [Epub ahead of print]*

Segall SK, Maixner W, Belfer I, Wiltshire T, Seltzer Z, Diatchenko L. Source: Center for Neurosensory Disorders1, Eshelman School of Pharmacy3, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA. segall@dentistry.unc.edu.
Abstract: The enzyme Catechol-O-Methyltransferase (COMT) has been shown to play a critical role in pain perception by regulating levels of epinephrine (Epi) and norepinephrine (NE). Although the key contribution of catecholamines to the perception of pain has been recognized for a long time, there is a clear dichotomy of observations.

PMID: 22483297 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Managing Chronic Pain with Nonopioid Analgesics: a Multidisciplinary Consult

Clauw D, McCarberg BH.

Source: Division of Rheumatology, Chronic Pain and Fatigue Research Center, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Abstract: As detailed in this online CME activity (www.cmeaccess.com/AJM/ChronicPain04), determining pain mechanism is an important aspect guiding treatment selection for chronic musculoskeletal pain states. Although broad classifications provide a framework, any combination of mechanisms may be present in a chronic pain patient, and there is growing evidence that pain states generally considered nociceptive may also involve elements of augmented central nervous system pain processing.

PMID: 22482859 [PubMed - in process]

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

The following studies and trials are posted at ClinicalTrials.gov

The Evaluation Of ALO-02 (Oxycodone Hcl and Naltrexone Hcl) In Subjects With Moderate To Severe Chronic Low Back Pain
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First Received on April 3, 2012.
Sponsor: Pfizer
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Pfizer
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01571362
Stated Purpose: The primary objective of the study is to determine the analgesic efficacy and safety of ALO-02 extended-release capsules, when compared to placebo, in subjects with moderate to severe chronic low back pain.

Treatment of Severe Mucositis Pain With Oral Ketamine Mouthwash
This study is currently recruiting participants.
First Received on March 27, 2012.
Sponsor: Aaron Cumpston, PharmD
Principal Investigator: Aaron Cumpston, PharmD, West Virginia University
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Aaron Cumpston, PharmD, West Virginia University
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01566448
Stated Purpose: Oral mucositis (inflammation of the lining of the mouth) is a very common adverse effect when chemotherapy and radiation therapy are used to treat cancer. Mucositis occurs in about 40% of patients receiving standard dose chemotherapy, 80% of patients receiving radiation therapy of the head and neck, and up to 100% of patients undergoing a bone marrow transplant. Because the pain from mucositis can be so bad it can cause the inability to eat or drink, inability to talk, gagging and drooling. Many times
mucositis can affect cancer treatment because patients may have to be given a lower dose of a drug or stop treatment completely. There are not many treatments today that can help relieve the severe pain caused from mucositis. This research study will help researchers determine if using an oral mouthwash called Ketamine will help lessen mucositis pain.

Safety and Efficacy of MK-8457 and Methotrexate (MTX) in Patients With Active Rheumatoid Arthritis Despite MTX Therapy (MK-8457-008) (AM2)

This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First Received on March 30, 2012.
Sponsor: Merck
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Merck
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01569152
Stated Purpose: The purpose of this study is to assess the safety and efficacy of MK-8457 + Methotrexate (MTX) in subjects with active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) despite MTX therapy.

Back to top