**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...

**FORT LAUDERDALE**

**Book Hotel Early**
Make your room reservations now for AAPM's 2013 Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Space fills up fast, so don't wait until the registration goes live.

**AAPM's Education Receives ACCME's Accreditation with Commendation**
Full story...

**Patient Education Resources**
AAPM's website is host to patient education videos that include 22 topics that you can

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**April 27, 2012 - Your Latest News on the Specialty of Pain Medicine**

**LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine**

- Drug Take-Back Event - This Saturday, April 28
- Pain Research in the News
- Pain Treatments/Trials in the News
- Practice Management & Coding Updates
- New Guidelines
- State Legislative News
- International Pain News
- Annual Meeting Coverage
- FDA News, Recalls and Warnings
- Military News
- Substance Abuse & Addiction Research
- Pain in the News
- Pain Abstracts in the News
- PubMed Pain Abstracts
- NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

**Drug Take-Back Event**

*This Saturday is National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day*
April 25, 2012 [Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy]

Encourage your patients to protect their families and take advantage of the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day this **Saturday, April 28, 2012,** from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at local sites across the country. New research from the Office of National Drug Control Policy found that 68 percent of new abusers of pain relievers obtained the pills from a friend or relative for free or took them without asking. Full story...

For more information on the DEA's **National Drug Take-Back Day**...

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**Pain Research in the News**

**Hyperbaric Oxygen Could Provide Relief of Chronic Pain**
April 22, 2012 [Source: Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology]
A Washington State University researcher conducted experiments on rats to study the mechanism of how HBO2 may be able to reduce neuropathic pain by acting in the brain. Full story...

**Lumbar Spondylosis Sufferers Endure Lowest Quality-Adjusted Life Year Health State Among Those Affected by Common Chronic Diseases**
April 17, 2012 [Source: American Association of Neurological Surgeons]
Research presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the American
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. View videos...

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.

AAM Members' Community
Click Here to join forums, special interest groups and more!
Join in on discussions today about the Cost of Pain and our newest forum for Young Physicians.

Advocacy Day 2011 on Capitol Hill
On March 23, 2011 AAPM state representatives visited Capitol Hill to advocate for better pain care.

Association of Neurological Surgeons examined ten common disease states and found that lumbar spondylosis patients had a cumulative mean EQ-5D of 0.39, the lowest quality-adjusted life year (QALY) compared to other common chronic disease states examined. Full story...

UT MD Anderson Study Finds Cancer Related Pain Often Undertreated; Minorities Twice as Likely Not To Receive Appropriate Analgesics
April 16, 2012 [Source: University of Texas, MD Anderson]
According to new research from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, more than one third of patients with invasive cancer are undertreated for their pain, with minority patients twice as likely to be undertreated. The study identified 3,023 patients at risk for pain and is the largest prospective evaluation of cancer pain and related symptoms ever conducted in an outpatient setting. Full story...

Changes in Brain's Blood Flow Could Cause 'Brain Freeze'
April 22, 2012 [Source: American Physiological Society]
Researchers at the Department of Veterans Affairs New Jersey Health Care System, the National University of Ireland Galway and Harvard Medical School showed that the sudden headache, or "brain freeze" seems to be triggered by an abrupt increase in blood flow in the anterior cerebral artery and disappears when this artery constricts. Finding ways to control the blood flow with drugs that block sudden vasodilation "may be one way of changing the headaches' course." Full story...

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Pain Treatments/Trials in the News

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals Announces Initiation of Second Phase 3 Clinical Trial for ARX-01, the Sufentanil NanoTab® PCA System, for the Treatment of Acute Post-Operative Pain
April 12, 2012 [Source: ClinicaSpace]
AcelRx Pharmaceuticals began the second of three Phase 3 studies of its Sufentanil NanoTab® PCA System, a pre-programmed, non-invasive, handheld system that allows post-operative patients to self-dose sublingual Sufentanil NanoTabs to manage post-operative pain. The study will compare the efficacy and safety of this system to the standard of care (PCA with morphine). Full story...

QRxPharma Successfully Completes Phase 1 Studies for MoxDuo® CR
April 10, 2012 [Source: MarketWatch]
Results from two Phase 1 studies in healthy volunteers of MoxDuo® CR, a controlled-release Dual-Opioid® (a 3:2 ratio of morphine and oxycodone), demonstrated both sustained blood levels for up to 24 hours and the drug’s increased resistance to tampering. Full story...

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Practice Management & Coding Updates

Reporting E/M Services and Procedures on the Same Day
Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant
CPT guidelines allow an Evaluation and Management (E/M) Service code to be reported on the day of a procedure or diagnostic test if the E/M service is "significant and separately identifiable" from the other service being reported. Simple confirmation of symptoms, explanation of the procedure, signing of consents, and verification of medical information are typically considered...
inherent in the procedure code and were considered in the value of the procedure. Full story...

**Physicians Wade Into Efforts To Curb Unnecessary Treatments**
April 4, 2012 [Source: Kaiser Health News]
Nine physician societies released a list of 45 common tests and treatments they say are often unnecessary and may even harm patients. Full story...

**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>
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>June 20, 2012</td>
<td>Medicare Guidelines for Documenting E/M Services</td>
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<td>September 26, 2012</td>
<td>Principles of ICD-10 Coding</td>
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<td>December 12, 2012</td>
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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...

**New Guidelines**

**New Guidelines: Treatments Can Help Prevent Migraine**
April 23, 2012 [Source: American Academy of Neurology]
The American Academy of Neurology and the American Headache Society released new guidelines that reviewed all available evidence on migraine prevention, examining the effectiveness of prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs and complementary treatments. Read more...

View guidelines...

**State Legislative News**

**Kentucky: Special Session Ends After Pain Pill Bill, Transportation Budget Win Approval**
April 20, 2012 [Source: Kentucky.com]
The Kentucky state legislature passed HB 1, which will require most doctors who prescribe narcotics to use the electronic prescription monitoring program (PMP), although they will not have to pay a fee to use the system. The PMP will remain in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and will not be transferred to the Attorney General's office. The bill also limits ownership of pain management clinics to physicians. Full story...

**International Pain News**

**Canadians Deserve a National Pain Strategy**
April 22, 2012 [Source: Digital Journal]
The first Canadian Pain Summit was held on April 24, 2012, to discuss the "implementation of a National Pain Strategy that would target this knowledge..."
gap by insisting on minimum training requirements for all Canadian health professionals." Six million Canadians suffer with chronic pain, and it is estimated to cost between $56-60 billion dollars in lost wages and direct health care costs to the country. Full story...

View Pain in Canada Fact Sheet...

Annual Meeting Coverage

Blog Post: Towards Effective Public Policy Regarding Pain Pills
April 19, 2012 [Source: The Reality-Based Community Blog]
Keith N. Humphreys PhD, keynote speaker at this year's Annual Meeting, comments on his address at the meeting and how Pain Medicine physicians are "seeking thoughtful, rational advice from each other, from their patients and from those who follow public policy." Read full blog post...

Project Walks Primary Care Providers Through Toughest Cases
April 15, 2011 [Source: Family Practice News]
Two presentations at AAPM's recent Annual Meeting discuss the benefits of programs such as Project ECHO, based at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, that provide real-time consultations, weekly video conferences that educate and mentor community physicians that are on the forefront on managing chronic diseases. Several universities, the U.S. Veterans Health Administration and other entities have adopted similar programs. Rollin M. Gallagher MD PhD, Editor of Pain Medicine, discussed the benefits of this type of program. Full story...

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

FDA News, Recalls and Warnings

Morphine Sulfate Injection USP, 4 mg/mL (C-II), 1 mL fill in 2.5 mL Carpuject by Hospira, Inc: Recall - May Contain More Than Intended Fill Volume
April 18, 2012 [Source: FDA]
ISSUE: Customer report of two Carpujects syringes containing more than the 1 mL labeled fill volume. Opioid pain medications such as morphine have life-threatening consequences if overdosed. Those consequences can include respiratory depression (slowed breathing or suspension of breathing) and low blood pressure. Full story...

Naloxone Debate: FDA Hears Testimony About Making an Overdose Antidote Nonprescription
April 13, 2012 [Source: Time]
The FDA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute on Drug Abuse sponsored a meeting to discuss whether naloxone (Narcan) should be available over-the-counter. Although there is widespread support, the cost to change the drug's status is significant. Full story...

Military News

Why Are We Drugging Our Soldiers?
April 21, 2012 [Source: The New York Times]
An opinion column in The New York Times discusses the use of stimulant medications in today's combat soldier and the effect it may be having on those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. [Full story...]

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Substance Abuse & Addiction Research

Opioids Associated with Highest Risk of Death
April 17, 2012 [Source: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health]
According to a new study by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Canada, the risk of death in people with an opioid addiction was 5.71 times higher than healthy individuals in the population of the same age, gender and race. The researchers examined hospital records of all California inpatients with a diagnosis of methamphetamine, alcohol, opioid, cannabis or cocaine-related disorders from 1990-2005. [Full story...]

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Pain in the News

Prescribers' Clinical Support System-Opioids (PCSS-O) Offers New Training Resource

A consortium of major stakeholders and constituency groups with interests in safe and effective use of opioid medications that offers extensive experience in training and peer support in the treatment of substance use disorders and specifically, opioid dependence treatment, as well as experience in the interface of pain and opioid misuse. In collaboration with our partners, educational products are available at no charge to those wishing to obtain additional knowledge on the safe and effective treatment of chronic pain with opioids and safe and effective treatment of opioid dependence. [For more information...]

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Pain Abstracts in the News

Neuromodulation of Pelvic Visceral Pain: Review of the Literature and Case Series of Potential Novel Targets for Treatment
April 23, 2012 [Source: Pain Practice]
Corey Hunter MD, Nimish Davé MD, MPH, Sudhir Diwan MD, Timothy Deer MD
Abstract: Chronic pelvic pain (CPP) is complex and often resistant to treatment. While the exact pathophysiology is unknown, the pain states resultant from conditions such as interstitial cystitis and the like yield patients with a presentation that bears a striking similarity to neuropathic syndromes that are known to respond to neuromodulation. While there has been past success using the sacral region as a target for spinal cord stimulation (SCS) to treat these patients, there remains to be a consensus on the optimal location for lead placement. In this article, the authors discuss the potential etiology of CPP, examine the current literature on lead placement for SCS as a method of treatment, as well as present several cases where novel lead placement was successfully employed.
[Read more...]

Prevention of Pegfilgrastim-Induced Bone Pain: A Phase III Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Randomized Clinical Trial of the University of Rochester Cancer Center Clinical Community Oncology Program Research Base
Abstract: Purpose: Pegfilgrastim-induced bone pain is a significant clinical problem that may result in discontinuation of pegfilgrastim and lead to less effective chemotherapy dosing. Interventions for pegfilgrastim-induced bone pain are needed.

Read more...

Opium use and mortality in Golestan Cohort Study: prospective Cohort Study of 50,000 Adults in Iran

April 17, 2012 [Source: British Medical Journal]

Abstract: Objectives To investigate the association between opium use and subsequent risk of death. Conclusion: Opium users have an increased risk of death from multiple causes compared with non-users. Increased risks were also seen in people who used low amounts of opium for a long period and those who had no major illness before use.

Read more...

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PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

Predictors of Pain Medication Selection Among Patients Diagnosed with Fibromyalgia


Boulanger L, Wu N, Chen SY, Nagar S, Fraser K, Bernauer MJ, Zhao Z, Zhao Y.

Source: United BioSource Corporation, Lexington, Massachusetts, U.S.A

Abstract: Objectives: Several pharmacologic therapies have been recommended for managing fibromyalgia. However, the factors associated with each treatment initiation have not been well established. This study assessed factors that were associated with the use of duloxetine vs. other pain medications among patients with fibromyalgia.

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PMID: 21899718 [PubMed - in process]

Read more...

Migraine Headaches and Suicide Attempt


Breslau N, Schultz L, Lipton R, Peterson E, Welch KM.

Source: From the Department of Epidemiology, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, East Lansing, MI (N. Breslau); Department of Public Health Sciences, Henry Ford Health System, Detroit, MI (L. Schultz and E. Peterson); Montefiore Headache Center and Departments of Neurology and Epidemiology and Population Health, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, NY (R. Lipton); Department of Neurology, The Chicago Medical School, and Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, North Chicago, IL, USA (K.M.A. Welch).

Abstract: Objective.- To estimate the risk of suicide attempt in persons with migraine vs controls with no history of severe headache, using prospective data and validated diagnostic assessment. To examine the specificity of the migraine-suicide attempt risk by comparing it to the risk associated with non-migraine headache of comparable severity and disability. Conclusions.- The results suggest the possibility that pain severity might account in part for the increased risk of suicide attempt associated with migraine.
The Impact of Discography on the Surgical Decision in Patients with Chronic Low Back Pain

Spine J. 2012 Apr 19. [Epub ahead of print]

Berg S, Isberg B, Josephson A, Fällman M.
Source: Stockholm Spine Center, Löwenströmska Hospital, 194 89 Upplands Väsby, Sweden.

Abstract: PURPOSE: This study was aimed at highlighting how discography affects surgical decisions when performed on one of four different indications in a complicated subgroup of patients with chronic low back pain assumed to be associated with degenerative disc disease (DDD). CONCLUSIONS: A high frequency of decisions was altered in this group of surgeons when using discography as an additional examination in patients where uncertainty remains in how to treat after clinical examination, questioning, and MRI.

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

The following studies and trials are posted at ClinicalTrials.gov

Nocipoint Therapy Versus Standard Physical Therapy Using Electrical Stimulation for Chronic Pain

This study is currently recruiting participants.
First Received on April 13, 2012. No Changes Posted
Sponsor: Pain Cure Center, California
Principal Investigators: Charles C Koo, PhD, Pain Cure Center, David Lewis, MD, Stanford University
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Pain Cure Center, California (Pain Cure Center, California)
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01578148
Stated Purpose: The purpose of this study is to validate the efficacy of Nocipoint therapy on chronic pain, and compare it with standard physical therapy using electrical stimulation on patients with chronic pain.

A Study Comparing the Efficacy and Safety of ABT-652 to Placebo in Subjects With Diabetic Neuropathic Pain

This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First Received on April 16, 2012. No Changes Posted
Sponsor: Abbott
Study Director: Wolfram Nothaft, MD, Abbott
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Abbott
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01579279
Stated Purpose: To evaluate the safety and efficacy of ABT-652 compared to Placebo in subjects with diabetic neuropathic pain. People with diabetes can, over time develop nerve damage throughout the body with symptoms such as pain, tingling, or numbness (loss of feeling) in the hands, arms, feet and legs.

Strategies for Prescribing Analgesics Comparative Effectiveness Trial (SPACE)

This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First Received on April 20, 2012. Last Updated on April 23, 2012
Sponsor: Department of Veterans Affairs
Principal Investigator: Erin E. Krebs, MD MPH, Minneapolis VA Health Care System, Minneapolis, MN
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Department of Veterans Affairs
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01583985

Stated Purpose: Chronic musculoskeletal pain conditions are among the most prevalent conditions in VA primary care. Over the past two decades, improved clinical attention to pain has been associated with exponentially greater use of long-term opioid therapy for chronic non-cancer pain, both within and outside the VA system. Despite this change in practice, the proper place of opioids in chronic pain management continues to be controversial because research has not demonstrated the long-term safety and effectiveness of opioids for chronic musculoskeletal pain. The Strategies for Prescribing Analgesics Comparative Effectiveness (SPACE) Trial will fill a critical gap in the evidence by comparing effectiveness and safety of two clinically relevant analgesic prescribing strategies—one that emphasizes early use of strong opioids and one that delays and minimizes opioid use— for Veterans with chronic back, hip, or knee pain.

Read more...

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