October 10, 2014 - Your Latest News on the Specialty of Pain Medicine

LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

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Miniature Wireless Device being Developed by Stanford Bio-X team Creates better Way of Studying Chronic Pain
October 7, 2014 [Source: Stanford News]
A team of Stanford Bio-X scientists and engineers is creating a small wireless device that will improve studies of chronic pain. The scientists hope to use what they learn to develop better therapies for the condition, which costs the economy $600 billion a year. Full story...

A Vicious Cycle in Osteoarthritis: Sleep Disturbance-Pain-Depression-Disability
October 6, 2014 [Source: Wiley]
New research confirms that sleep disturbances are linked to pain and depression, but not disability, among patients with osteoarthritis (OA). Study results published in Arthritis Care & Research, a journal of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), found that poor sleep increases depression and disability, but does not worsen pain over time. Full story...

Pain Words Stand out More for Those Experiencing It: York U Study
October 3, 2014 [Source: York University, Canada]
Ache, agony, distress and pain draw more attention than non-pain related words when it comes to people who suffer from chronic pain, a York University research using state-of-the-art eye-tracking technology has found. Full story...

Big Data Analytics Could Yield Better Treatment for Pain Management
Revised AAPM Ethics Charter
Includes statement on conflicts of interest.

AAPM's State-of-the-Art, Comprehensive Textbook of Pain Medicine Available Now
Editor-in-Chief Timothy R. Deer MD

Pain Treatment and Trials in the News

Hydrocodone Rescheduling Becomes Official
October 6, 2014 [Source: Pain Medicine News]
Full story...

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CDC Information for Healthcare Workers on Ebola
The Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) continues to work with other U.S. government agencies and international partners to ensure that healthcare workers are adequately prepared to care for and protect patients with Ebola. 

More information...  Register Now...

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government agencies, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other domestic and international partners in an international response to the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Click here for key messages about the outbreak and the response that will be updated as new information becomes available and distributed. View Open Letter from HHS...

NIH Pathways to Prevention Workshop: The Role of Opioids in the Treatment of Chronic Pain
Presented September 29-30, 2014
The draft report from the NIH Pathways to Prevention Workshop: The Role of Opioids in the Treatment of Chronic Pain is now available online. Comments will be accepted through October 17, 2014. The program book, evidence report, and additional materials are available on the Workshop Resources page.

Heroin Overdose Deaths Increased in Many States through 2012
October 2, 2014 [Source: CDC]
Heroin deaths increased sharply in many states, according to a report of death certificate data from 28 states published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in this week's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Despite these findings, still more than twice as many people died from prescription opioid overdoses as died from heroin in these states in 2012. Full story... To view report...

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Pain Education News

Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Medicine Receives ACGME Approval
Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Medicine was recently accredited as a subspecialty fellowship training program within anesthesiology by the ACGME Board of Directors. Next steps will include the development of curriculum and program requirements.

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Practice Management & Coding Updates

Documentation Challenges in an EHR
Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant
A March 2014 report released by the Department of Commerce outlines the documentation challenges of an EHR and steps physicians have taken to address these concerns. A significant complaint by physicians was the time spent on documentation. The increase in documentation time over that required for paper charts or dictation often results in a decrease in the number of patients seen or a decrease in physician personal time. Read more...

Hardship Exception Applications to Avoid the 2015 Medicare Payment Adjustment due November 30, 2014
CMS is announcing its intent to reopen the submission period for hardship exception applications for eligible professionals and eligible hospitals to avoid the 2015 Medicare payment adjustments for not demonstrating meaningful use of Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT). The new deadline will be November 30, 2014. Previously, the hardship exception
Need Facts on Pain?
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.

Physician Payment Sunshine Act Resources:

- AMA's Recommended 4 Steps for Physicians to Support Accurate Data
- AMA Toolkit for Physician Financial Transparency Reports (Sunshine Act)
- The Official CMS Website for Open Payments (Physician Payments Sunshine Act)

Pain Medicine Highlights:
Volume 15, Issue 9

EDITORIAL
Potential Cost-Shifting and Hidden Costs and Risks in the Economic Analysis of Opioid Abuse-Deterrent Formulations

SPINE SECTION
Modified Fluoroscopy-Guided Sacroiliac Joint Injection: A Technical Report

CANCER PAIN & PALLIATIVE CARE SECTION
Treatment of Medically Refractory Cancer Pain with a Combination of Intrathecal Neuromodulation and Neurosurgical Ablation: Case Series and Literature Review

NEUROPATHIC PAIN SECTION
Rational Pain Management in Complex Regional Pain Syndrome

application deadline was April 1, 2014 for eligible hospitals and July 1, 2014 for eligible professionals.

Full story...

Next Coding Webinar: Coding for Pain in 2015
Wednesday, December 10, 2014 - Noon-1:30pm CDT
Get ready to start the year right with Coding for Pain in 2015. This webcast will look at the CMS policy and reimbursement changes for 2015 and its impact on pain medicine practices. Tips and tools for working under Pay for Performance and other proposed reimbursement models will be explored. 2015 changes to CPT and the move to ICD-10 will be reviewed including the impact of these changes to practice management and reimbursement processes.

For more information or to register...

Check www.painmed.org/coding for coding books, webinar archives and other coding resources.

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Advocacy News

Pain Care Coalition Submits Letter to HHS
The Pain Care Coalition* submitted a letter to the Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Service regarding "Balancing Effective Treatment of Chronic Pain and the Risk of Abuse and Diversion of Pain Medications."

View letter...

*The Pain Care Coalition represents leading national professional societies that advocate for progressive public policies to improve pain care in the United States through research, education and access to care. The Coalition's member societies (American Academy of Pain Medicine, American Pain Society, and American Society of Anesthesiologists) represent tens of thousands of health care professionals throughout the country.

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State Legislative News

CA: No on Proposition 46
October 6, 2014 [Source: LA Times]

MD: Congressman Sarbanes Introduces Bill to Combat America's Primary Care Physician Shortage
September 17, 2014 [Source: Congressman John Sarbanes]

PA: Governor Corbett Signs Life-Saving Legislation, Approves Recommendations to Combat Pennsylvania's Heroin and Opioid Crisis
September 29, 2014 [Source: Governor Tom Corbett, PA]

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Get Involved

AAPM Shared Interest Groups
The Academy recognizes that its members may value opportunities to come
A Network Meta-Analysis

The Design and Methods of Genetic Studies on Acute and Chronic Postoperative Pain in Patients after Total Knee Replacement

Intermittent Epidural vs Continuous Wound Infusion of Ropivacaine for Acute and Chronic Pain Control after Hysterectomy or Myomectomy: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Effectiveness of Therapeutic Patient Education for Adults with Migraine. A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials

Designate AAPM on Your AMA Membership Ballot

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

Be sure to designate AAPM as your Specialty Society. It is very important that we have sufficient AAPM votes for continued representation in the House of Delegates. Thank you.

For more information on SIGs...

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New Guidelines

AAN: Risks of Opioids Outweigh Benefits for Headache, Low Back Pain, Other Conditions

September 29, 2014 [Source: American Academy of Neurology]

MINNEAPOLIS According to a new position statement from the American Academy of Neurology (AAN), the risk of death, overdose, addiction or serious side effects with prescription opioids outweigh the benefits in chronic, non-cancer conditions such as headache, fibromyalgia and chronic low back pain. The position paper is published in the September 30, 2014, print issue of Neurology, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

Full story...

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Substance Abuse and Addiction Research

State Policies Can Influence Patient Access to Effective Heroin Treatment

October 7, 2014 [Source: Rand Corporation]

State policies can influence the number of physicians licensed to prescribe buprenorphine, a drug that can treat addiction to heroin and other opioids in outpatient settings, according to a new RAND Corporation study.

Full story...

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Pain Abstracts in the News

A Capsaicin (8%) Patch in the Treatment of Severe Persistent Inguinal Postherniorrhaphy Pain: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial

October 7, 2014 [Source: PLOS ONE]

Abstract: Background: Persistent pain after inguinal herniorrhaphy is a disabling condition with a lack of evidence-based pharmacological treatment options. This randomized placebo-controlled trial investigated the efficacy of a capsaicin 8% cutaneous patch in the treatment of severe persistent inguinal postherniorrhaphy pain.

Read more...

Expression of 5-HT3 Receptors and TTX Resistant Sodium Channels (NaV1.8) on Muscle Nerve Fibers in Pain-Free Humans and Patients with Chronic Myofascial Temporomandibular Disorders

September 26, 2014 [Source: The Journal of Headache and Pain]

Abstract (provisional): Background: Previous studies have shown that 5-HT3-antagonists reduce muscle pain, but there are no studies that have investigated the expression of 5-HT3-receptors in human muscles. Also, tetrodotoxin resistant voltage gated sodium-channels (NaV) are involved in peripheral sensitization and found in trigeminal ganglion neurons innervating the rat masseter muscle. This study aimed to investigate the frequency of
nerve fibers that express 5-HT3A-receptors alone and in combination with NaV1.8 sodium-channels in human muscles and to compare it between healthy pain-free men and women, the pain-free masseter and tibialis anterior muscles, and patients with myofascial temporomandibular disorders (TMD) and pain-free controls.

Read more...

PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

GINIP, a Gai-Interacting Protein, Functions as a Key Modulator of Peripheral GABAB Receptor-Mediated Analgesia

Gaillard S1, Lo Re L1, Mantilleri A1, Hepp P2, Urien L1, Malapert P1, Alonso S1, Deage M3, Kambrun C4, Landry M4, Low SA5, Alloui A6, Lambolez B2, Scherrer G5, Le Feuvre Y4, Bourinet E3, Moqrich A7.

Abstract: One feature of neuropathic pain is a reduced GABAergic inhibitory function. Nociceptors have been suggested to play a key role in this process. However, the mechanisms behind nociceptor-mediated modulation of GABA signaling remain to be elucidated. Here we describe the identification of GINIP, a G protein-coupled receptor (GPCR) interacting protein expressed in two distinct subsets of nonpeptidergic nociceptors. GINIP null mice develop a selective and prolonged mechanical hypersensitivity in models of inflammation and neuropathy. GINIP null mice show impaired responsiveness to GABAB, but not to delta or mu opioid receptor agonist-mediated analgesia specifically in the spared nerve injury (SNI) model.

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PMID: 25242222 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Read more...

Industry News

Purdue Pharma L.P. Commercially Launches Recently Approved 7.5 mcg/hour Dosage Strength of Butrans<sup>®</sup> (Buprenorphine) Transdermal System CIII

October 8, 2014 [Source: Purdue Pharma L.P.]
Full story...

FDA Approves RELISTOR<sup>®</sup> Subcutaneous Injection for the Treatment of Opioid-Induced Constipation in Patients with Chronic Non-cancer Pain

September 29, 2014 [Source: Salix Pharmaceuticals, Ltd. and Progenics]
Full story...

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