AAPM's Education Receives ACCME Accreditation with Commendation

AAPM Shared Interest Groups
The Academy recognizes that its members may value opportunities to come together for the purpose of sharing their interests as they relate to our specialty. To provide a forum for this, AAPM has created AAPM Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) to facilitate networking, advancing shared interests, or discussion of a particular field or topic. AAPM SIGs are multidisciplinary and open to any AAPM member. For more information on SIGs...

Donate Now to Better Pain Care

AAPM E-news is supported by an unrestricted grant from Purdue Pharma L.P. Content is completely and independently selected and edited by AAPM.

Pain Research in the News
Your Pain Reliever May Also be Diminishing Your Joy

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Industry News

National Pain Strategy Draft Released
Open for Public Comment through May 20, 2015

A Comprehensive Population Health Level Strategy for Pain
On April 2, 2015, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the National Pain Strategy draft which is now open for public comment through May 20, 2015. We hope you will join us in voicing support for the Strategy by submitting your individual comments. Your input is critical as we show HHS the importance of improving pain care for millions of Americans.

- Click here for the Federal Register Notice for Public Comment
- View the National Pain Strategy Draft
- The Academy Issues a Statement Regarding the National Pain Strategy
- NIH Office of Pain Policy Quarterly Newsletter January – March 2015 [Source: NIH]
COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Researchers studying the commonly used pain reliever acetaminophen found it has a previously unknown side effect: It blunts positive emotions. In the study, participants who took acetaminophen reported less strong emotions when they saw both very pleasant and very disturbing photos, when compared to those who took placebos. Full story...

CMU Researchers Discover How Pain Fine-Tunes Pain Relief
April 10, 2015 [Source: Carnegie Mellon News]
At the cellular level, pain and pain relief are caused by two different signaling pathways. But the two pathways aren’t necessarily independent of one another, according to a study published by Carnegie Mellon researchers in Cell Reports. Full story...

Physical Therapy as Good as Surgery and Less Risky for One Type of Lower Back Pain
April 9, 2015 [Source: Harvard Health Blog]
One type of lower back pain, called lumbar spinal stenosis, is sometimes treated with surgery. But physical therapy works just as well, and comes with fewer unwanted complications — some of them life-threatening — than surgery, according to a study published yesterday in Annals of Internal Medicine. Full story...

View abstract in Annals of Internal Medicine...

First Look at ‘Wasabi Receptor’ Brings Insights for Pain Drug Development
April 8, 2015 [Source: University of California, San Francisco]
In a feat that would have been unachievable only a few years ago, researchers at UC San Francisco have pulled aside the curtain on a protein informally known as the "wasabi receptor," revealing at near-atomic resolution structures that could be targeted with anti-inflammatory pain drugs. Full story...


Easing the Pain
April 8, 2015 [Source: Queen’s University]
The combination of two well-known drugs will have unprecedented effects on pain management, says new research from Queen’s. Combining morphine, a narcotic pain reliever, and nortriptyline, an antidepressant, has been found to successfully relieve chronic neuropathic pain – or a localized sensation of pain due to abnormal function of the nervous system – in 87 percent of patients, and significantly better than with either drug alone. Full story...

Shift From IV to Oral Sedation for Pain Procedures?
April 8, 2015 [Source: Medscape]
Full story (login required)...

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Practice Management & Coding Updates

Senate Repeals SGR
The U.S. Senate followed the way of the U.S. House of Representatives in repealing the SGR (Sustainable Growth Rate) formula just prior to the scheduled 21% physician payment reduction. Medicare has been holding claims since April 1 in anticipation of legislation eliminating the 21% decrease in payment. These claims will now be processed and paid at the same rate
2,500 members of AAPM. The network reaches beyond 30,000 professionals in healthcare.

Help Wanted:

Physician: Interventional Pain Specialist
Pain Consultants of Oregon
Eugene, OR
Multi-disciplinary regional pain care center seeking an experienced interventional pain management physician.

Physical Medicine & Rehab Opportunity - 45 minutes east of Columbus
Genesis HealthCare System
Zanesville, OH
Seeking a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physician to join its Neurosciences team.

Director Rehab Services - Acute Care
Largo Medical Center
Largo, FL
Supervision, coordination, and administration of the Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy departments.

Read this month’s President’s Message
AAPM E-news is supported by an unrestricted grant from Purdue Pharma L.P. Content is completely and independently selected and edited by AAPM.

Updates
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

as claims submitted from January 1, 2015 until March 31, 2015.

Read more...

Order your copy today of the new 2015 Coding Book
2015 Illustrated Coding and Billing for Anesthesia/Pain Medicine
This all-in-one resource contains all the coding information you need on one page for anesthesia and pain medicine.

For more information...

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

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Government Agency News

10th Annual NIH Pain Consortium Symposium on Advances in Pain Research
On May 26-27, 2015, the NIH Pain Consortium will convene the 10th Annual NIH Pain Consortium Symposium: "Advances in Pain Research". The 2015 symposium, "Looking Back and to the Future", will return to research topics presented at our first symposium held in 2006. It will highlight advances in pain research on Neuro-Glial Mechanisms, Genetics & Epigenetics, Brain Imaging Discoveries, Novel Therapy Development, and Cognitive and Emotional Influences. This annual symposium features NIH supported pain research that is of high interest and presents opportunities to advance the field. More than 20 NIH Institutes, Centers and Offices participate in the NIH Pain Consortium. See the NIH Pain Consortium tab for more information.

For more information...

Pain Management Injection Therapies for Low Back Pain
March 20, 2015 [Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality]

Full story...

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PCSSO Webinars: Year 1

AAPM successfully completed its Providers' Clinical Support System for Opioid Therapies (PCSS-O) Year One programming – a series of three, opioid-related educational webinars featuring AAPM Past President Lynn R. Webster, MD. Year One sessions included Best Practices: Eight Principles for Safer Opioid Prescribing for Pain Management; Guide to Aberrant Drug-Related Behavior When Prescribing Opioids for Pain Management, and Responsible Prescribing of Methadone for Pain Management: Safety First.

As one of 13 partner organizations with a PCSS-O grant, the AAPM has trained nearly 240 clinicians in this critical content area to date. PCSS-O is a national training and mentoring project developed in response to the prescription opioid overdose epidemic. The consortium of major stakeholders and constituency groups with interests in safe and effective use of opioid medications offers extensive experience in the treatment of substance use disorders and specifically, opioid use disorder treatment, as well as the interface of pain and opioid misuse.
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:
• Policy and Medicine Blog's webinar titled: "Physician Payment Sunshine Act: Lessons Learned in Preparation and Implementation."
• 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 16, Issue 4

GENERAL SECTION
The Complexity Model: A Novel Approach to Improve Chronic Pain Care

EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION
Using Simulation and Standardized Patients to Teach Vital Skills to Pain Medicine Fellows

PAIN & AGING SECTION
Do Male and Female General Practitioners Differently Prescribe Chronic Pain Drugs to Older Patients?

OPIOIDS, SUBSTANCE ABUSE & ADDICTIONS SECTION
Dose Escalation During the First Year of Long-Term Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain

NEUROMODULATION SECTION
Successful Peripheral Neuromodulation for Phantom Limb Pain

ACUTE & PERIOPERATIVE PAIN SECTION
Perioperative Factors Associated with HCAHPS Responses of 2,758 Surgical Patients

REHABILITATION SECTION
A Nationwide Study of Chronic Pain Prevalence in the General Spanish Population: Identifying Clinical Subgroups Through Cluster Analysis

Coming soon: For those who missed the live webinar sessions, each of the Year One programs will soon be available for free, enduring CME. Please check back at the AAPM Education Portal here for more information.

The PCSS-O project offers CME programs on the safe and effective use of opioids for treatment of chronic pain and safe and effective treatment of opioid use disorder. Funding for this initiative was made possible (in part) by Providers' Clinical Support System for Opioid Therapies (grant nos. 5H79TI023439 and 1H79TI025595) from SAMHSA. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

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Substance Abuse and Addiction Research

Opioid Relapse Rates Fall After Jail Release, According to Pilot Study
April 14, 2015 [Source: New York Langone Medical Center]

Newswise — New York, NY -- It has been called a pioneering strategy for treating opioid addiction, and has already been adopted in a small yet growing number of jails and prisons in the United States. Now, a clinical trial published in the journal Addiction by researchers at NYU Langone Medical Center finds that the extended-release medication naltrexone (XR-NTX) is associated with a significant decline in relapse rates for a group of mostly heroin-dependent men after their release from New York City jails. Full story...

Penn Medicine Pain Management Study Reveals Patient Confusion About Opioid Addiction
April 13, 2015 [Source: Penn Medicine]

PHILADELPHIA – Emergency department patients have misperceptions about opioid dependence and want more information about their pain management options, according to a new study from researchers at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. The study, published online in the Annals of Emergency Medicine, found that patients seen in the emergency department for acute pain expressed a desire for better communication from physicians about their pain management options, along with discussion of the risks of opioid dependence. Full story...

How Severe is the Shortage of Substance Abuse Specialists?
April 1, 2015 [Source: Stateline]

The number of people with insurance coverage for alcohol and drug abuse disorders is about to explode at a time there's already a severe shortage of trained behavioral health professionals in many states. Full story...

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Pain News

Complex Pain Med Problems Demand Holistic Coverage, Action
April 14, 2015 [Source: The Hill Blog]

As a journalist, there is a certain responsibility to seek out the untold story — especially when it has the power to improve lives. One year ago, Drug Store News launched a microsite to tell the stories of those suffering with chronic pain. The idea was hatched from a discussion with staff of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS). Full story...

Jennifer Aniston's Oscar-Worthy Performance Shows Life With Chronic
View all topics in this issue of Pain Medicine journal or go to the Member Center of the AAPM website for more information.

**AAPM Membership**

- Become A Member
- Renew Membership

Visit the AAPM Member Center for more information.

**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.

- **Specialty Society Balloting**
- **Cast your vote**

**AAPM on Social Network Sites**

Join the AAPM Linked-In Group.

- **FOLLOW US ON twitter**

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### Pain

*April 2015 [Source: Pain Medicine News]*

- **Full story...**
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### State Legislative News

**North Dakota Takes Important Step to Save Lives from Overdose**

*April 16, 2015 [Source: AMA Advocacy Update]*

- **Full story...**
- **Back to top**

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### Pain Abstracts in the News

**Implications of Early and Guideline Adherent Physical Therapy for Low Back Pain on Utilization and Costs**

*April 9, 2015 [Source: BMC Health Services Research]*

Abstract (provisional): Background Initial management decisions following a new episode of low back pain (LBP) are thought to have profound implications for health care utilization and costs. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the impact of early and guideline adherent physical therapy for low back pain on utilization and costs within the Military Health System (MHS).

- **Read more...**

**Treatment Patterns, Healthcare Utilization, and Costs of Chronic Opioid Treatment for Non-Cancer Pain in the United States**

*March 2015 [Source: American Journal of Managed Care]*

ABSTRACT: Objectives: To evaluate treatment patterns, healthcare resource utilization, and costs among patients within a large managed care population chronically using opioids for non-cancer pain.

- **Read more...**

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### PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

**Are Physicians Safely Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Noncancer Pain? A Systematic Review of Current Evidence**


Tournebize J1, Gibaja V, Muszczak A, Kahn JP.

Abstract: BACKGROUND: With rising prescription of opioid medications for chronic noncancer pain (CNCP) in the past years, opioid abuse and overdose deaths have increased in parallel. To ensure adequate treatment outcomes and reduce the risks linked with the chronic use of opioids, practitioner's adherence to treatment guidelines is essential. This study summarizes published recommendations about the strategies to reduce the risks associated with the chronic use of opioids and evaluates the adherence of physicians to these recommendations. CONCLUSIONS: Substantial practice and knowledge gaps were identified, including the use of pain scales and prescription of transdermal fentanyl in opioid-naive patients, which have important implications for patient's safety. Guidelines more practical to physicians' settings and further education of physicians are warranted.

© 2015 World Institute of Pain.

PMID: 25865462 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

- **Read more...**
Effects of Ketoprofen, Morphine, and Kappa Opioids On Pain-Related Depression of Nesting in Mice

Negus SS1, Neddenriep B, Altarifi AA, Carroll FI, Leitl MD, Miller LL.

Abstract: Pain-related functional impairment and behavioral depression are diagnostic indicators of pain and targets for its treatment. Nesting is an innate behavior in mice that may be sensitive to pain manipulations and responsive to analgesics. The goal of this study was to develop and validate a procedure for evaluation of pain-related depression of nesting in mice. Male ICR mice were individually housed and tested in their home cages. On test days, a 5cm x 5cm Nestlet™ was subdivided into six pieces, the pieces were evenly distributed on the cage floor, and Nestlet consolidation was quantified during 100-min sessions. Baseline nesting was stable within and between subjects, and nesting was depressed by two commonly used inflammatory pain stimuli [intraperitoneal injection of dilute acid; intraplantar injection of complete Freund's adjuvant (CFA)]. Pain-related depression of nesting was alleviated by drugs from two classes of clinically effective analgesics (the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug ketoprofen and the mu opioid receptor agonist morphine) but not by a drug from a class that has failed to yield effective analgesics (the centrally acting kappa opioid agonist U69,593). Neither ketoprofen nor morphine alleviated depression of nesting by U69,593, suggesting that ketoprofen and morphine effects were selective for pain-related depression of nesting. In contrast to ketoprofen and morphine, the kappa opioid receptor antagonist JDTic blocked depression of nesting by U69,593 but not by acid or CFA. These results support utility of this procedure to assess expression and treatment of pain-related depression in mice.

PMID: 25827812 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Read more...

Rates of Opioid Misuse, Abuse, and Addiction in Chronic Pain: a Systematic Review and Data Synthesis

Vowles KE1, McEntee ML, Julnes PS, Frohe T, Ney JP, van der Goes DN.

Abstract: Opioid use in chronic pain treatment is complex, as patients may derive both benefit and harm. Identification of individuals currently using opioids in a problematic way is important given the substantial recent increases in prescription rates and consequent increases in morbidity and mortality. The present review provides updated and expanded information regarding rates of problematic opioid use in chronic pain. Because previous reviews have indicated substantial variability in this literature, several steps were taken to enhance precision and utility.

PMID: 25785523 [PubMed - in process]

Read more...

Expression of the Spinal 5-HT7 Receptor and p-ERK Pathway in the Carrageenan Inflammatory Pain of Rats

Cho SY1, Ki HG1, Kim JM1, Oh JM1, Yang JH1, Kim WM1, Lee HG1, Yoon MH1, Choi JH1.

Abstract: BACKGROUND: Although the inhibitory role of the 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 7 (5-HT7R) on nociceptive processing is generally recognized, an excitatory effect associated with a reduced 5-HT7R expression has also been observed in the nerve injury model. In the carrageenan model, no significant effect is produced by the 5-HT7R activation, but the change in 5-HT7R expression has not been examined. CONCLUSIONS: The expression of the spinal 5-HT7R is not altered by peripheral inflammation with carrageenan, suggesting that the lack of antinociceptive effect of the 5-HT7R activation is partly attributable to the absence of changes in the expression of the 5-HT7R in the spinal cord. The extended increase of the spinal p-ERK might be related to the enhanced pain behavior in the animals with lesions of the spinal serotonergic pathway in the carrageenan model.

PMID: 25844136 [PubMed]
NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

The following studies and trials are posted at ClinicalTrials.gov:

A Study of Duloxetine (LY248686) in Participants With Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathic Pain (DPNP)
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
Sponsor: Eli Lilly and Company
Collaborator: Shionogi
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Eli Lilly and Company
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02417935
First received: April 13, 2015
Stated Purpose: The main purpose of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of the study drug known as duloxetine in participants with diabetic peripheral neuropathic pain.

Pain and Stress Assessment and ROP Screening
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
Verified April 2015 by Loma Linda University
Sponsor: Loma Linda University
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Loma Linda University
Principal Investigator: Andrew Hopper, MD, Loma Linda University
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02415205
First received: April 9, 2015
Stated Purpose: The study will measure the effects of eye exams on markers of stress in the urine. In addition, measurements will be taken to show the effects of stress on brain activity, O2 sats, and blood flow.

Industry News

Expert: Could Treating Sleep Problems Help With PTSD?
April 16, 2015 [Source: Tonix Pharmaceuticals]
Full story...

SPR Therapeutics Awarded $1.45M Grant From National Institutes Of Health To Develop Implantable Pain Management System
April 6, 2015 [Source: SPR Therapeutics]
Full story...