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...

LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine
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Pain Research in the News

Patients Prefer Relief from Lower Back Pain over Improved Mobility
September 9, 2015 [Source: University of Rochester Medical Center]
A new study out today in the journal Neurology examines the question of quality of life for individuals with a common form of lower back pain called lumbar spinal stenosis. The findings show that, when asked to choose between treatments that reduced pain or would help them stand or walk, patients overwhelmingly chose pain relief. Full story...

A New Marker for Migraine?
September 9, 2015 [Source: American Academy of Neurology]
Researchers may have discovered a new marker found in the blood for episodic migraine, according to a study published in the September 9, 2015, online issue of Neurology®, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Episodic migraine is defined as having less than 15 headaches per month. Full story...

Early Research Makes Way for Future Treatments for Phantom Limb Pain
September 2, 2015 [Source: Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development]

Electrical stimulation on the skin surface at the elbow can produce feeling in the hand—including rare “natural” sensations—according to a study just published in the Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development. Full story...

Big Differences in U.S. Healthcare Costs for Fixing Back Pain
September 1, 2015 [Source: Wolters Kluwer]

How much does spinal fusion surgery cost? The answer depends on what part of the country you live in, reports a study in the September 1 issue of Spine, published by Wolters Kluwer. Full story...

Antidepressants Fine-Tune Brain Reward Pathway to Lessen Neuropathic Pain
August 24, 2015 [Source: Mount Sinai Hospital]

Commonly used antidepressant drugs change levels of a key signaling protein in the brain region that processes both pain and mood, according to a study conducted at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and published August 24 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). The newly understood mechanism could yield insights into more precise future treatments for nerve pain and depression. Full story...

Intractable Pain May find Relief in Tiny Gold Rods
August 21, 2015 [Source: Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences, Kyoto University, Japan]

A team of scientists at Kyoto University's Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS) has developed a novel technique using tiny gold rods to target pain receptors. Full story...

Providing Relief from Bladder and Pelvic Pain Issues; Beaumont Urologists Pioneers in Neuromodulation
August 12, 2015 [Source: Beaumont Health Systems]

Dr. Peters recently presented three papers at the International Neuromodulation Society’s 12th World Congress. He and his team have had success in treating bladder issues and pelvic pain through a technique called neuromodulation. Full story...

Advocacy

AMA Launches New "End Opioid Abuse" Website

AMA is part of the AMA Task Force to Reduce Opioid Abuse, which is working to ensure effective pain management practices and evidence-based prescribing of opioids, promote appropriate referrals and access to care for patients with opioid use disorders, and take necessary steps needed to reduce opioid-related harm. As part of the Task Force’s efforts, the AMA has launched a new, web-based resource, End Opioid Abuse. The new website includes resources on areas including:

- State-specific information and links to prescription drug monitoring programs
- CME courses and webinars on preventing opioid abuse and safe opioid prescribing
- Safe and effective use of opioids for treatment of chronic pain and opioid use disorder: Resources from the Providers' Clinical Support System for Opioid Therapies
- Resources for patients
- Educational resources by state and specialty society

View AAPM's Press Release on the AMA Task Force to Reduce Opioid Abuse...
AAPM Education Resources

New - Free CME Program Now Available!
With a commitment to making high-impact, long-term change, the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) has developed a patient safety-focused web-based continuing medical education (CME) program for all prescribers of opioids, with a targeted focus on those who prescribe methadone for the treatment of chronic pain.

The AAPM's Methadone Education Curriculum is designed to equip prescribers with the knowledge, skills, and behaviors they need to implement evidence-based safe prescribing practices. Changes in prescribers' knowledge, competence and performance will minimize risks and reduce harm for patients being treated for chronic pain with methadone.

For more information...

Practice Management & Coding Updates

Coding Resources:

Pain Medicine Diagnostic Code Mapper
The Pain Medicine Diagnostic Code Mapper has four full pages containing the top reported ICD-9-CM diagnoses codes, mapping them to ICD-10-CM codes for pain medicine.

For more information...

2015 Illustrated Coding and Billing for Anesthesia/Pain Medicine
Now available for purchase on the AAPM Education Portal! Just $99!
For more information...

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)

Substance Abuse and Addiction Research

First-of-a-Kind Study Shows College Students Often Start Using Substances During Summer
August 27, 2015 [Source: SAMHSA]
A study by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the first time provides insight on substance use initiation patterns among the one in every five full-time college students (aged 18 to 22) using illicit or potentially harmful substances. The study, which tracks initiation by month, shows the peak times for the initiation of substances including alcohol, marijuana, and inhalants. Full story...

Education Positively Impacts Safe Opioid Prescribing among Clinicians
August 25, 2015 [Source: Boston University Medical College]
Educating clinicians on how to safely prescribe opioids can help decrease opioid misuse among chronic pain sufferers. These findings, which appear...
online in the journal *Pain Medicine*, confirm that education can empower clinicians to make more informed clinical decisions about initiating, continuing, changing or discontinuing opioids for patients suffering from chronic pain based on a careful benefit versus risk/harm assessment. [Full story...](#)

**In First Year, Two Florida Laws Reduce Amount of Opioids Prescribed, Study Suggests**

*August 17, 2015 [Source: John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health]*

Two Florida laws, enacted to combat prescription drug abuse and misuse in that state, led to a small but significant decrease in the amount of opioids prescribed the first year the laws were in place, a new study by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health researchers suggests. [Full story...](#)

**Government Agency News**

**FDA Advisory Committee Meetings:**

**September 10, 2015: Joint Meeting of the Anesthetic and Analgesic Drug Products Advisory Committee and the Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee Meeting Announcement**

*Agenda: The committees will be asked to discuss new drug application (NDA) 206830, oxycodone immediate-release tablets, submitted by Purdue Pharma, with the proposed indication of the management of moderate to severe pain where the use of an opioid analgesic is appropriate. It has been formulated with the intent to provide abuse-deterrent properties.*

[Read more...](#)

**September 11, 2015: Joint Meeting of the Anesthetic and Analgesic Drug Products Advisory Committee and the Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee Meeting Announcement**

*Agenda: The committees will discuss new drug application (NDA) 208090, oxycodone extended-release capsules for oral use, submitted by Collegium Pharmaceuticals, proposed for the management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative options are inadequate. This product has been formulated with the intent to provide abuse-deterrent properties.*

[Read more...](#)

**State News**

**Governor Charlie Baker Enlists State's Medical Schools In Combatting Opioid Epidemic**

*September 2, 2015 [Source: Governor Charlie Baker, MA]*

In an effort to arm the next generation of doctors with the tools to curb the opioid epidemic, Governor Charlie Baker met with the Massachusetts Medical Society and the Deans from four medical schools today to discuss opportunities for enhancing curriculum and establishing cross-institutional best practices in pain management and safe prescribing of opioids. [Full story...](#)

**Governor Hassan Calls on Board of Medicine to Adopt Stronger Rules to Prevent Opioid Abuse**

*September 2, 2015 [Source: Governor Maggie Hassan, NH]*

Continuing her efforts to combat the heroin and opioid crisis in New
Hampshire, Governor Maggie Hassan today sent a letter to the New Hampshire Board of Medicine, calling on the board to adopt stronger, more explicit and more up-to-date rules to prevent opioid abuse. Full story...

AAPM Members in the News

Safeguarding Integrity in Opioid Clinical Practice Guidelines
August 2015 [Source: Pain Medicine News]

Commentary: The practice of medicine has never been an exact science, which is why trustworthy clinical practice guidelines are important. Guidelines are aimed at giving clinicians the knowledge they need to help them make the best possible decisions for their patients in light of available treatment options. Full story...

Pain News

Lower-Back Work Injury Claimants Treated with Opioids Stay off Work Longer, Study Finds
August 27, 2015 [Source: McMaster University]

An analysis by McMaster researchers has found that workers disabled by low back pain and receiving disability benefits are more likely to stay on claim if they are treated with opioids. This study of administrative data from the Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) was published by BMJ Open today. Full story...

Patient Resource News

Bing to Warn Customers About the Threats of Fake Online Pharmacies
August 6, 2015 [Source: Bing]

Full story...

The Medical Minute: The Dangers of Dated Prescription Drugs
September 9, 2015 [Source: Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center]

Many of us are guilty of neglecting our medicine cabinet – specifically, our prescriptions. Sometimes we feel the need to hang onto them, perhaps because they were costly or “just in case.” According to Kimberly Cimarelli, pharmacy manager at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, keeping old prescription drugs may cause more harm than good. Full story...

Education Meetings

Midwest Pain Society
39th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Midwest Pain Society
October 16-17, 2015
Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL
For more information...
AAPM Foundation

AAPM Foundation Advances the Science and Practice of Pain
The American Academy of Pain Medicine Foundation was created in 2011 to support the efforts of AAPM. The overarching focus of the Foundation's efforts is to advocate for patient safety by providing funding support to expand and enhance education and research. Visit the Foundation website to learn more about the Foundation and to make a donation today.

Pain Abstracts in the News

Inflammatory Pain Promotes Increased Opioid Self-Administration: Role of Dysregulated Ventral Tegmental Area μ Opioid Receptors
September 4, 2015 [Source: The Journal of Neuroscience]
Abstract: Pain management in opioid abusers engenders ethical and practical difficulties for clinicians, often resulting in pain mismanagement. Although chronic opioid administration may alter pain states, the presence of pain itself may alter the propensity to self-administer opioids, and previous history of drug abuse comorbid with chronic pain promotes higher rates of opioid misuse.
Read more...

Epidural Corticosteroid Injections for Radiculopathy and Spinal Stenosis: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis
Background: Use of epidural corticosteroid injections is increasing. Purpose: To review evidence on the benefits and harms of epidural corticosteroid injections in adults with radicular low back pain or spinal stenosis of any duration.
Read more...

Sex Differences in Dose Escalation and Overdose Death during Chronic Opioid Therapy: A Population-Based Cohort Study
August 20, 2015 [Source: PlosOne]
Abstract: Background: The use of opioids for noncancer pain is widespread, and more than 16,000 die of opioid-related causes in the United States annually. The patients at greatest risk of death are those receiving high doses of opioids. Whether sex influences the risk of dose escalation or opioid-related mortality is unknown.
Read more...

Effectiveness of Pregabalin for the Treatment of Chronic Low Back Pain with Accompanying Lower Limb Pain (Neuropathic Component): A Non-Interventional Study in Japan
August 5, 2015 [Source: Journal of Pain Research]
Abstracts: Objective: To evaluate the impact of pregabalin on sleep, pain, function, and health status in patients with chronic low back pain with accompanying neuropathic pain (CLBP-NeP) under routine clinical practice.
Read more...

PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:
Keratinocytes can Modulate and Directly Initiate Nociceptive Responses
Elife. 2015 Sep 2;4. doi: 10.7554/eLife.09674. [Epub ahead of print]
Abstract: How thermal, mechanical and chemical stimuli applied to the skin are transduced into signals transmitted by peripheral neurons to the CNS is an area of intense study. Several studies indicate that transduction mechanisms are intrinsic to cutaneous neurons and that epidermal keratinocytes only modulate this transduction. Using mice expressing channelrhodopsin (ChR2) in keratinocytes we show that blue light activation of the epidermis alone can produce action potentials (APs) in multiple types of cutaneous sensory neurons including SA1, A-HTMR, CM, CH, CMC, CMH and CMHC fiber types. In loss of function studies, yellow light stimulation of keratinocytes that express halorhodopsin reduced AP generation in response to naturalistic stimuli. These findings support the idea that intrinsic sensory transduction mechanisms in epidermal keratinocytes can direct AP firing in nociceptor as well as tactile sensory afferents and suggest a significantly expanded role for the epidermis in sensory processing.
PMID: 26329459 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

Mu Opioid Splice Variant MOR-1K Contributes to the Development of Opioid-Induced Hyperalgesia
Oladosu FA1, Conrad MS2, O'Buckley SC1, Rashid NU3, Slade GD1, Nackley AG1.
Abstract: BACKGROUND: A subset of the population receiving opioids for the treatment of acute and chronic clinical pain develops a paradoxical increase in pain sensitivity known as opioid-induced hyperalgesia. Given that opioid analgesics are one of few treatments available against clinical pain, it is critical to determine the key molecular mechanisms that drive opioid-induced hyperalgesia in order to reduce its prevalence. Recent evidence implicates a splice variant of the mu opioid receptor known as MOR-1K in the emergence of opioid-induced hyperalgesia. Results from human genetic association and cell signaling studies demonstrate that MOR-1K contributes to decreased opioid analgesic responses and produces increased cellular activity via Gs signaling. Here, we conducted the first study to directly test the role of MOR-1K in opioid-induced hyperalgesia.
PMID: 26270813 [PubMed - in process]
Read more...

Fentanyl Buccal Tablet vs. Oral Morphine in Doses Proportional to the Basal Opioid Regimen for the Management of Breakthrough Cancer Pain: A Randomized, Crossover, Comparison Study
Mercadante S1, Adile C2, Cuomo A3, Aielli F4, Cortegiani A5, Casuccio A6, Porzio G4.
Abstract: CONTEXT: Fentanyl products have shown superiority to oral opioids for the management of breakthrough cancer pain (BTcP). However, these studies did not use appropriate patient selection, and drugs have been compared by using different rationales. CONCLUSION: When used in doses proportional to the basal opioid regimen, FBT showed a clear superiority and was well tolerated compared with OM during the first 30 minutes, which is the approximate target for a timely intervention required for a BTcP medication.
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Read more...
CEFALY® Device in the Treatment of Patients With Fibromyalgia

This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
Verified September 2015 by Cefaly Technology
Sponsor: Cefaly Technology
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Cefaly Technology
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02546362
First received: September 9, 2015

Purpose: The objective of this pilot open trial is to investigate the efficacy and safety of e-TNS with the Cefaly(R) device in fibromyalgia.

Read more...

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Industry News

Egalet Announces Commercial Launch of OXAYDO™, the First and Only Immediate-Release Oxycodone Designed to Discourage Intranasal Abuse, and Launch of IMPACT-Rx, a Patient Access Initiative
September 9, 2015 [Source: Egalet Corporation]
Full story...

Endo Pharmaceuticals and BioDelivery Sciences Present New Data on Investigational Product Buprenorphine HCl Buccal Film for Chronic Pain Management
September 9, 2015 [Source: Endo Pharmaceuticals]
Full story...

Research Identifies a Potential New Path to Developing a Treatment for Chronic Pain
September 8, 2015 [Source: Targeted Medical Pharma, Inc.]
Full story...

KemPharm Data to be Presented at PAINWeek 2015: Posters Highlight Data on Opioid Abuse Prevalence, and the Advantages of Prodrugs and KP201/APAP in Preventing Abuse and Misuse
September 8, 2015 [Source: KemPharm, Inc.]
Full story...

Results of Pain Research Projects Raise Aspiration for Advanced Pain Treatment
September 3, 2015 [Source: Grünenthal GmbH]
Full story...

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