Pain Research in the News

Methadone Provides Pain Relief for Kids with Sickle Cell
October 7, 2016 [Source: Washington University in St. Louis]

Many children with sickle cell disease experience frequent and severe pain episodes, requiring emergency room visits or hospitalization. In search of more effective ways to treat such pain, researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have found that adding a low dose of the drug methadone to standard treatment can limit pain experienced by children with the condition. The study is available online in the journal Pediatric Blood & Cancer.

Full story...
repeals the Medicare sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula and places new emphasis upon a Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). The latter may well require physicians’ participation in patient registries, a potentially complex and costly undertaking. AAPM is monitoring the issues in conjunction with the American Medical Association (AMA) and other medical professional societies.

In a live webinar on November 16, AAPM expert coding consultant, Emily Hill, PA, will review MIPS and describes its impact on future practice reimbursement. Learn more and register in the AAPM Education Center.

The AMA has also been instrumental in these efforts and have developed new tools to help physicians prepare for this payment system change. For more information on the AMA MACRA Resources...

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Practice Management & Coding Updates

CMS Offers Flexibility on Quality Payment Program for 2017
October 12, 2016 [Source: Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant]

In April, CMS released its proposal for implementing its Quality Payment Program as authorized under MACRA (Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015). The proposal required providers to begin reporting new MIPS (Merit-Based Incentive Payment System) measures beginning January 2017. The measures reported in 2017 will impact Medicare reimbursement for 2019.

Read more...

Practice Management Webinar: November 16, 1 pm ET
Register for AAPM's upcoming live webinar, Navigating MIPS: The New Quality Program and What It Means for Your Practice, presented by coding expert, Emily Hill, PA.

Register Now...

Visit the coding for pain section of the website for coding books, on-demand coding seminars and other coding resources.

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Government Agency News

Prevalence of Severe Joint Pain among Adults with Doctor-Diagnosed Arthritis - United States, 2002-2014
October 7, 2015 [Source: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)]

In the United States, arthritis is a leading cause of disability; arthritis affected an estimated 52.5 million (22.7%) adults in 2010–2012 and has been projected to affect 78.4 million adults by 2040. Severe joint pain (SJP) can limit function and seriously compromise quality of life. To determine the prevalence of SJP among adults with doctor-diagnosed arthritis, and the trend in SJP from 2002 to 2014, CDC analyzed data from the National Health Interview Survey.

For more information...

DEA Reduces Amount of Opioid Controlled Substances to be Manufactured in 2017
Help Wanted:

Unique Opportunity for a Pain Management Physician
St. Peter's Hospital
Helena, MT
Progressive, state-of-the-art 123-bed independent community hospital in Montana's capital city.

Pain Management Physician
Neurological Spine and Pain Savannah, GA
Two board certified pain fellowship trained anesthesiologists seeking a third partner to manage and treat pain patients.

Pain Management - Minnesota, Fairview Health Services
Fairview Health Services Blaine, MN
Seeking Pain Management Physicians to join our growing comprehensive interdisciplinary team.

Associate/Full Professor - Basic and Clinical Neuroscience Research
Stony Brook Medicine - Department of Anesthesiology Stony Brook, NY
Stony Brook Medicine invites applications for the positions of Associate or Full Professor.

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has reduced the amount of almost every Schedule II opiate and opioid medication that may be manufactured in the United States in 2017 by 25 percent or more, according to a Final Order being published in the Federal Register tomorrow and available for public inspection today.

Full story...

McCaskill, Portman Release Bipartisan Report Regarding Anti-Opioid Abuse Efforts in Medicare And Private Health Insurance Systems
October 4, 2016 [Source: U.S. Senators Claire McCaskill (D-MO)]
Today, U.S. Senators Claire McCaskill (D-MO) and Rob Portman (R-OH), Ranking Member and Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI), released a bipartisan report examining the significant role that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and private health insurers play in detecting, reporting, and addressing opioid abuse.

Full story...

Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee - October 2016
Videocast: Monday, October 31, 2016, 8:30:00 AM
For more information...

Pain News

Campaign Breaks the Silence on Invisible Pain Condition Affecting Millions of Women
October 6, 2016 [Source: National Vulvodynia Association]
Millions of women and adolescent girls in the U.S. are living with an excruciatingly painful, invisible condition and suffering in silence. Today, on the heels of Invisible Illness Awareness Week, the National Vulvodynia Association announces the launch of "Indivisible," a campaign empowering women with vulvodynia, or chronic vulvar pain, to break their silence and improve the path to diagnosis and treatment.

Full story...

AAPM Business

2017-2018 Slate of Candidates
The American Academy of Pain Medicine has announced the slate of candidates for the 2017-2018 AAPM elections. This slate is not a ballot, but reflects nominees proposed by the AAPM Nominating Committee who are eligible to serve in the open positions on the 2017-2018 Board of Directors and Nominating Committee.

Additional nominations for any office may be made by signed petition of at least 50 voting members of the Academy. Deadline to submit additional nominations by petition: Thursday, October 20, 2016, by 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

For more details on the nomination process...

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The American Board of Pain Medicine (ABPM) is committed to the certification of qualified physicians in the field of pain medicine. Visit ABPM's website to view ABPM's mission, vision, and objectives.

Pain Medicine Highlights:
Volume 17, Issue 9

SPINE SECTION
Safety of Lumbar Spine Radiofrequency Procedures in Patients Who Have Posterior Spinal Hardware

PAIN & AGING SECTION
Deconstructing Chronic Low Back Pain in the Older Adult — Step by Step Evidence and Expert-Based Recommendations for Evaluation and Treatment. Part X: Sacroiliac Joint Syndrome

METHODOLOGY, MECHANISMS & TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH SECTION
Quantitative Sensory Testing in Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain

OPIOIDS, SUBSTANCE ABUSE & ADDICTIONS SECTION
An Online Survey of Patients’ Experiences Since the Rescheduling of Hydrocodone: The First 100 Days

NEUROMODULATION & INTERVENTION SECTION
Stereotactic Approach Combined with 3D CT Reconstruction for Difficult-to-Access Foramen Ovale on Radiofrequency Thermocoagulation of the Gasserian Ganglion for Trigeminal Neuralgia

ACUTE & PERIOPERATIVE PAIN SECTION
Time-to-Cessation of Postoperative Opioids: A Population-Level Analysis of the Veterans Affairs Healthcare System

HEADACHE & FACIAL PAIN SECTION
Auriculotemporal Neuralgia: Eight New Cases report

REHABILITATION SECTION
Identification of Subgroups of Women with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome with Central Sensitization

The following article received an excellent Altmetric score in the beginning of October: "Factors Associated with Suicidal Ideation in Patients with Chronic Non-Cancer Pain". This was due to a link in the USA Today op-ed, Docs need help to ease opioid epidemic: Column by Dr. Robert Bonakdar, which was then mentioned in a press release or republished by news outlets including Yahoo and many local news affiliates. View the latest issue of Pain Medicine...

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Education News

Free Online Seminars for AAPM Members
Select, non-CME seminars from AAPM's previous annual meetings. Key leaders and pain medicine experts in the field discuss exciting developments that have occurred in the science of pain medicine, new concepts in pain medicine, best methodologies for delivery of pain medicine services and much more. For more information...

Visit the AAPM Education Center and claim member discounts on on-demand education courses and register for upcoming webinars in the Education Center.

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AAPM Remembers

AAPM Past President, Jack J. Pinsky, MD
The Academy wishes to express its condolences to the family of AAPM Past President, Jack J. Pinsky, MD (1989), who recently passed away. We gratefully acknowledge Dr. Pinsky's many contributions to AAPM throughout his more than 30 years of membership.

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Member Survey

Thank you to all who took the time to complete the AAPM Member Survey. Your input is appreciated and invaluable as we continue to fulfill the Academy's mission.

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Pain Abstracts in the News

Prevalence of Pain 6 Months after Surgery: a Prospective Observational Study
October 10, 2016 [Source: BMC Anesthesiology]
Abstract: Background: Pain after surgery is a major issue for patient discomfort and often associated with delayed recovery. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the prevalence of pain and requirement for analgesics up to 6 months after elective surgery, independent if new pain symptoms occurred after surgery or if preoperative pain persisted in the
postoperative period.
Read more...

Data in Longitudinal Randomised Controlled Trials in Cancer Pain: is There Any Loss of the Information Available in the Data? Results of a Systematic Literature Review and Guideline for Reporting
October 6, 2016 [Source: BMC Cancer]
Abstract: Background: Given the prevalence of untreated pain among cancer patients, there have been calls for more and better research in the domain. Increasingly, calls for less waste and more optimal use of trial data collected are being made. Waste of data includes non-optimal statistical analysis and non-presentation of interpretable effect size as a measure of effectiveness of an intervention which also enable comparisons across studies.
Read more...

Knee Pain Severity Rather Than Structural Damage is a Risk Factor for Incident Widespread Pain: The Multicenter Osteoarthritis (MOST) Study
September 16, 2016 [Source: Arthritis Care and Research]
Abstract: Objectives: To examine the longitudinal relation of knee pain, radiographic osteoarthritis (ROA), symptomatic knee OA (SxOA) and knee pain severity to incident widespread pain (WSP).
Read more...

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PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

Adolescent Context of Exposure to Prescription Opioids and Substance Use Disorder Symptoms at Age 35: a National Longitudinal Study
Abstract: The objective of this study was to examine the association of context of prescription opioid exposure (ie, medical or nonmedical) in adolescence with the subsequent risk of nonmedical use of prescription opioids (NMUPO) and substance use disorder (SUD) symptoms at age 35. Multiple cohorts of nationally representative probability samples of U.S. high school seniors (n = 4072) were surveyed through self-administered questionnaires and followed longitudinally from adolescence (modal age 18, graduating classes 1976-1996) to age 35 (1993-2013).
PMID: 27227693; PMCID: PMC5028228
Read more...

Increased Interstitial Concentrations of Glutamate and Pyruvate in Vastus Lateralis of Women with Fibromyalgia Syndrome Are Normalized after an Exercise Intervention - A Case-Control Study
Abstract BACKGROUND: Fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS) is associated with central alterations, but controversies exist regarding the presence and role of peripheral factors. Microdialysis (MD) can be used in vivo to study muscle alterations in FMS. Furthermore for chronic pain conditions such as FMS, the mechanisms for the positive effects of exercise are unclear. This study investigates the interstitial concentrations of algesics and metabolites in the vastus lateralis muscle of 29 women with FMS and 28 healthy women before and after an exercise intervention. CONCLUSION: This study supports the suggestion that peripheral metabolic and algesic muscle alterations are present in FMS patients and that these alterations contribute to pain. After an exercise intervention, alterations normalized, pain intensity decreased (but not abolished), and strength and endurance improved, all findings that suggest the effects of exercise are partially peripheral.
Read more...
Does Association of Opioid Use with Pain and Function Differ by Fibromyalgia or Widespread Pain Status?

Turner JA1, Shortreed SM, Saunders KW, LeResche L, Thielke S, Von Korff M.

Abstract: Many consider chronic opioid therapy (COT) to be ineffective for fibromyalgia, but empirical evidence is limited. Among patients identified as initiating COT, we examined whether fibromyalgia was associated with different relationships of opioid use to pain and activity interference outcomes 12 months later. We obtained electronic data on diagnoses and opioid prescriptions. We obtained patient self-report data, including pain and activity interference measures, at baseline, 4 months, and 12 months.

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

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

FDG PET/MRI Evaluation of Facet Joint Pain
This study is currently recruiting participants.
First received: September 29, 2016
Sponsor: Mayo Clinic
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Vance Lehman, Mayo Clinic
Principal Investigator: Vance T Lehman, Mayo Clinic
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02921490
Stated Purpose: Chronic pain incurs over half a trillion dollars in lost productivity (healthcare, lost wages, etc) annually. The most common source is low back pain (LBP), often from facet joints. The clinical evaluation of facet joints is challenging and anatomic imaging findings of facet joint; degenerative change; correlate poorly with pain. Therefore, it is difficult to select appropriate candidate patients/facet joints to treat. Misguided percutaneous treatment can cost thousands of dollars per session and delay diagnoses.

Subdissociative Dose Ketamine for Treatment of Acute Pain in Subjects With Chronic Pain
First received: September 28, 2016
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
Sponsor: Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute
Collaborator: Air Force Research Laboratory
Information provided by (Responsible Party): David Tanen, Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute
Principal Investigator: David Tanen, MD, Los Angeles Biomedical Institute
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02920528
Stated Purpose: This is a prospective, randomized controlled trial which will be conducted to determine whether sub-dissociative dose ketamine (SDDK) can improve pain control in subjects with chronic pain syndrome presenting to the emergency department with exacerbation of their chronic pain. The investigators also aim to determine whether use of SDDK can reduce the amount of subsequent opioid pain medications required for adequate pain relief in this population.

Industry News

FDA Joint Meeting Endorses Commitment to Higher Doses and Broader Access for Naloxone to Help in Fight against Opioid Overdose
Grünenthal's Cebranopadol, a Novel Strong Analgesic, Meets Primary Efficacy Endpoint in Phase 3 Trial in Cancer Pain