For more information...

AAPM's 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...

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LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

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New Study Finds Reading Can Help with Chronic Pain
March 2, 2017 [Source: University of Liverpool, U.K.] A study conducted by researchers from the University of Liverpool, The Reader and the Royal Liverpool University Hospitals Trust, and funded by the British Academy, has found that shared reading can be a useful therapy for chronic pain sufferers.

Full story...

UA Researchers See Promise in Light Therapy to Treat Chronic Pain
February 28, 2017 [Source: University of Arizona] Researchers at the University of Arizona have found promise in a novel, non-pharmacological approach to managing chronic pain—treating it with green light-emitting diodes (LED). Results of the study appear in the February 2017 issue of the journal Pain.

Full story...

Given the Choice, Patients Will Reach for Cannabis over Prescribed Opioids
February 28, 2017 [Source: University of British Columbia, Canada] Chronic pain sufferers and those taking mental health meds would rather turn to cannabis instead of their prescribed opioid medication, according to a new study. “This study is one of the first to track medical cannabis use under the new system of licensed producers, meaning that all participants had physician...
authorization to access cannabis in addition to their prescription medicines,” says UBC Assoc. Prof. Zach Walsh, co-author of the study.

Full story...

Is Back Pain Killing Us?
February 24, 2017 [Source: University of Sydney, Australia]
Published in the European Journal of Pain, the study of 4390 Danish twins aged more than 70 years investigated whether spinal pain increased the rate of all-cause and disease-specific cardiovascular mortality.

Full story...

Itch Neurons Play a Role in Managing Pain
February 22, 2017 [Source: Johns Hopkins Medicine]
But when it comes to sending signals toward your brain through your spinal cord, itch and mild pain can go through the same set of spinal cord neurons, researchers report Feb. 22 in Neuron. This finding explains why pain often accompanies intense, chemical-induced itch.

Full story...

Online Treatment Could Help Thousands with Chronic Knee Pain
February 21, 2017 [Source: University of Melbourne, Australia]
Researchers at the University of Melbourne are calling on health insurers and government to support new remotely delivered treatment models – including Skype consultations – for people suffering chronic knee pain.

Full story...

AAP Urges Public Health Approach for Women Who Use Opioids during Pregnancy
February 20, 2017 [Source: American Academy of Pediatrics]
As the number of pregnant women who use opioids has increased over the past decade, more infants have been born experiencing withdrawal symptoms, a national trend that requires a public health response rather than a punitive approach, according to a new policy statement released by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Full story...

AAPM Annual Meeting

33rd Annual Meeting Next Week in Orlando
Join the Academy in Orlando March 15-19 for the must-attend pain medicine meeting of the year. View the full educational program and register for the meeting.

Premier preconference and stand-alone programs, include:

- Essential Tools for Treating the Patient in Pain™
- WAPMU Ultrasound/Cadaver Program
- Opioid and Non-Opioid Medications Management
- REMS-approved SAFE Opioid Prescribing Program
Help Wanted:

**Pain Management-Anesthesiologist in Beautiful Pinehurst, NC**
Pinehurst Surgical Pinehurst, NC
Seeking a Pain Management-Anesthesiology BC/BE Physician, interested in a practice heavily focused on interventional pain management.

**Interventional Pain Physician**
WellSpan Health York, PA
Seeking an Interventional Physiatrist or Neurologist to join our practice in York, PA.

**PM&R Interventional Sports Medicine Physician - South Lake Tahoe, California**
Barton Health South Lake Tahoe, CA
Seeks a full time BC/BE Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R) interventional sports medicine physician.

**Hospice/Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner**
Department of Veterans Affairs Lakewood, WA
The Nurse Practitioner has primary duties for both the Palliative Care/Hospice program and for Geriatric Medicine.

Contact AAPM with questions about the Annual Meeting by calling 847.375.4731 or email info@painmed.org. Connect with AAPM on social media using #PainMed2017.

Practice Management & Coding Updates

**RUC Surveys Launched - Your Help is Needed**
March 8, 2017 [Source: Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant]
CMS has requested a review of physician work for CPT code 64405 (Injection, anesthetic agent; greater occipital nerve). In response to the request, AAPM has joined with other Pain Medicine organizations to conduct a standard AMA/RUC survey for these codes. A random sample of AAPM members received this survey via e-mail. Survey results will be used by AAPM and the other involved societies to develop recommended work values.

Order the 2017 Illustrated Coding and Billing Expert for Anesthesia / Pain Management

Prepare your practice for 2017 by ordering the 2017 Coding for Pain book. This book is an all-in-one resource containing the coding information needed for the anesthesia/pain medicine specialty. Optimized for medical necessity and reimbursement understanding, this guide focuses on a subset of CPT® anesthesia services, as well as surgeries, medicine, and ancillary services CPT® codes chosen by experts who take into consideration utilization, denial risk, and complexity.

Order Now

Substance Abuse and Addiction Research

**Many Patients Receive Prescription Opioids During Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction**
February 23, 2017 [Source: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health]
More than two in five people receiving buprenorphine, a drug commonly used to treat opioid addiction, are also given prescriptions for other opioid painkillers – and two-thirds are prescribed opioids after their treatment is complete, a new Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health study.
How Your Hamstrings Can Provide Relief From Back Pain

February 23, 2017 [Source: Men's Health]

AAPM President-Elect Steven P. Stanos, DO is quoted in this Men's Health article.

Full story...

NASEM Report Recommends Removing Barriers to Cannabis Research

February 28, 2017 [Source: NIDA, Nora’s Blog]

The National Academy of Medicine, formerly the Institute of Medicine (IOM), is a nonprofit organization of medical and health professionals whose reports provide independent research reviews and recommendations on pressing issues in the field. The Health Effects of Cannabis and Cannabinoids is its first report on the subject since 1999, when (as the IOM) the organization reached the conclusion that "accumulated data indicate a potential therapeutic value for cannabinoid drugs, particularly for symptoms such as pain relief, control of nausea and vomiting, and appetite stimulation."

Full story...

A Nontoxic Pain Killer Designed by Modeling of Pathological Receptor Conformations

March 3, 2017 [Source: Science]

Abstract: Indiscriminate activation of opioid receptors provides pain relief but also severe central and intestinal side effects. We hypothesized that exploiting pathological (rather than physiological) conformation dynamics of opioid receptor-ligand interactions might yield ligands without adverse actions. By computer simulations at low pH, a hallmark of injured tissue, we designed an agonist that, because of its low acid dissociation constant, selectively activates peripheral µ-opioid receptors at the source of pain generation.

Read more...

Nonpainful Remote Electrical Stimulation Alleviates Episodic Migraine Pain

March 1, 2017 [Source: Neurology]

Abstract: Objective: To evaluate the efficacy of remote nonpainful electrical upper arm skin stimulation in reducing migraine attack pain. Conclusion: Nonpainful remote skin stimulation can significantly reduce migraine pain, especially when applied early in an attack. This is presumably by activating descending inhibition pathways via the conditioned pain modulation effect. This treatment may be proposed as an attractive nonpharmacologic, easy to use, adverse event free, and inexpensive tool to reduce migraine pain.

Read more...
Physical Activity Behavior Predicts Endogenous Pain Modulation in Older Adults
March 2017 [Source: PAIN]

Abstract: Introduction: The experience of pain depends on complex interactions between ascending peripheral signals and modulation of those signals in the central nervous system by descending inhibitory and facilitatory systems. A dysregulated pattern of endogenous pain modulation, characterized by greater facilitation of pain and a reduced capacity to inhibit pain on dynamic quantitative sensory tests, is a shared characteristic of many chronic pain syndromes (eg, fibromyalgia, back pain, and osteoarthritis), is associated with increased reports of clinical pain in healthy adults, and predicts the transition from acute to chronic postoperative pain.

Read more...
completed self-report measures of pain catastrophizing, state anxiety, and demographic information.

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

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

Efficacy and Safety Study of BIIB074 in Participants with Trigeminal Neuralgia
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First received: February 28, 2017
Sponsor: Biogen
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Biogen
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03070132
Stated Purpose: The primary objective of the study is to evaluate the efficacy of BIIB074 in treating pain experienced by participants with trigeminal neuralgia (TN). Secondary objectives of this study are to investigate the safety and tolerability of BIIB074 in participants with TN and to evaluate the population pharmacokinetics (PK) of BIIB074.

Risk Stratification in Primary Care Combined with Stratified-specific Physical Therapy Care for Low Back Pain
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First received: February 23, 2017
Sponsor: University of Vermont Medical Center
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Sharon Henry, University of Vermont Medical Center
Principal Investigator: Sharon M Henry, PT, PhD, The University of Vermont Medical Center
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03065894
Stated Purpose: This study aims to examine patient outcomes following risk stratification for low back pain in Family Medicine combined with either matched physical therapy (PT - i.e., stratified-specific PT) treatments or current treatment in primary care across The University of Vermont Health Network.

Industry News

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals' New Drug Application for DSUVIA Accepted for Filing with PDUFA Date of October 12, 2017
February 27, 2017 [Source: AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.]