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...

Pain Research in the News

Obese People Have Lower Pain Threshold, New Research Shows
March 27, 2017 [Source: Leeds Beckett University, U.K.]
A new study, carried out at Leeds Beckett University, highlights the differences in pain response between different groups of people. The results could reinforce the argument for weight loss programs being part of pain management plans for obese people suffering from chronic pain.

Full story...

UNC Researchers Link Orphan Receptor to Opioid-Induced Itching
March 27, 2017 [Source: University of North Carolina School of Medicine]
New findings published in the journal *Nature Chemical Biology* by UNC School of Medicine scientists show that MRGRPX2, a receptor protein on the surface of mast cells, can trigger the immune system response that leads to itching associated with some opioids.

Full story...

CHMP Backs Pentosan Polysulfate (Elmiron) for Bladder Pain Syndrome
March 27, 2017 [Source: Medscape]

Full story (login required)...

Specialized Compound Could Lead to Chronic Pain Relief Without the
Use of Opioids
March 21, 2017 [Source: Purdue University]
Purdue researchers have discovered a compound that could lead to the
treatment of chronic pain without the need for patients to rely on opioids. A
team led by Val Watts, associate head and professor of medicinal chemistry
and molecular pharmacology in Purdue’s College of Pharmacy, said the
compound shows unparalleled selectivity in inhibiting the adenylyl cyclase 1
(AC1).
Full story...

Pain in the Neck: University of Utah Engineers use CRISPR Technology
to Prevent Tissue Damage and Resulting Chronic Pain
March 13, 2017 [Source: University of Utah]
Researchers led by University of Utah bioengineering assistant professor
Robby Bowles have discovered a way to curb chronic pain by modulating
genes that reduce tissue- and cell-damaging inflammation.
Full story...

AAPM Annual Meeting
Nearly 1,000 attendees convened for AAPM’s 33rd Annual Meeting in
Orlando, Florida, March 15-19, 2017. If you attended the meeting, please
remember that April 30, 2017 is the deadline to complete evaluations
and claim your CME or CE credit.

Annual Meeting press coverage and poster information is included below:

- View AAPM 2017 Annual Meeting Press Releases
- Clinical Pain Advisor 2017 Annual Meeting Coverage
- MedPage Today 2017 Annual Meeting Coverage
- Medscape 2017 Annual Meeting Press Coverage
- Pharmacy Times AAPM Annual Meeting Coverage
- Community Data for Naloxone Spray Shows 'Real-World' Efficacy
  March 17, 2017 [Source: Pain Medicine News]
- View AAPM 2017 Annual Meeting Scientific Poster Abstracts

Advocacy News
AAPM Encourages Members in Oregon to Participate in April 6
Coverage Discussion
On April 6, 2017, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will reconsider its ruling
that eliminated coverage for epidural steroid injections. The OHA’s Health
Evidence Review Commission’s Evidence-based Guidelines Subcommittee
will meet to review and discuss the initial draft coverage guidance "Low Back
Pain: Minimally Invasive and Non-Corticosteroid Percutaneous Interventions"
and revised coverage guidance "Low Back Pain: Corticosteroid Injections."
For more information...
Help Wanted:

**NP/PA Pain Management Clinic**
University of New Mexico Hospitals
Albuquerque, NM
We are looking for the right clinician who is interested in working with our team, caring for patients suffering with chronic pain.

**BC/BE Physiatrists**
Ochsner Health System
New Orleans, LA
Searching for BC/BE PHYSIATRISTS to join our established inpatient rehabilitation practices at our facilities.

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

**Physiatrist Northwest**
Permanente, P.C.
Vancouver, WA
We are currently seeking a Board Certified or Board Eligible Physiatrist to join a department of ten physicians at our medical office.

Read the current [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.

AAPM E-news is supported by an educational grant from Daiichi Sankyo, Inc. Content is completely and independently selected and edited by AAPM.

> ASCO Addresses New Policies That Threaten Access to Opioids
> March 25, 2017 [Source: The ASCO Post]
> Full story...
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**Practice Management & Coding Updates**

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

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

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**AAPM Business**

AAPM is pleased to announce its 2017-2018 Board of Directors, who assumed office on Saturday, March 18, 2017.

View current Board...

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**AAPM Members in the News**

Seattle Clinic Follows Biopsychosocial Model for Patients with Chronic Pain

March 28, 2017 [Source: AMA Wire]

AAPM President Steven P. Stanos, DO, is interviewed in this AMA Wire regarding the rehabilitation-based program at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle.

Full story...

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**Substance Abuse and Addiction Research**

ACP Issues Recommendations to Prevent and Treat Substance Use Disorders

March 28, 2017 [Source: American College of Physicians]

The American College of Physicians (ACP) today released a paper with a comprehensive set of public policy recommendations for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders involving illicit and prescription drugs. The paper is published in Annals of Internal Medicine.

Full story...
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's website to view ABPM's mission, vision, and objectives.

Pain Medicine Highlights:
Volume 18, Issue 3
SPINE SECTION
The Risks of Continuing or Discontinuing Anticoagulants for Patients Undergoing Common Interventional Pain Procedures
PAIN & AGING SECTION
Pain Increases the Risk of Developing Frailty in Older Adults with Osteoarthritis
NEUROMODULATION & INTERVENTION SECTION
A Phase II Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Safety and Efficacy Study of Lenalidomide in Lumbar Radicular Pain with a Long-Term Open-Label Extension Phase
NEUROPATHIC PAIN SECTION
Effects of Linearly Polarized Near-Infrared Irradiation Near the Stellate Ganglion Region on Pain and Heart Rate Variability in Patients with Neuropathic Pain
ACUTE & PERIOPERATIVE PAIN SECTION
Perioperative Pain Management Strategies for Amputation: A Topical Review
HEADACHE & FACIAL PAIN SECTION
Patients with Concomitant Chronic Neck Pain and Myofascial Pain in Masticatory Muscles Have More Widespread Pain and Distal Hyperalgesia than Patients with Only Chronic Neck Pain
REHABILITATION SECTION
Psychosocial Influences on Exercise-Induced Hypoalgesia
INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE SECTION
Ear Acupuncture for Immediate Pain Relief—A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized

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Government Agency News

New VA, DoD Opioid Guideline Warns Against Long-Term Use
March 17, 2017 [Source: Medscape]
Full story (login required)...

Characteristics of Initial Prescription Episodes and Likelihood of Long-Term Opioid Use — United States, 2006–2015
March 17, 2017 [Source: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)]
Because long-term opioid use often begins with treatment of acute pain, in March 2016, the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain included recommendations for the duration of opioid therapy for acute pain and the type of opioid to select when therapy is initiated. However, data quantifying the transition from acute to chronic opioid use are lacking.
Full story...

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Pain Abstracts in the News

Preoperative Opioid Use is Independently Associated with Increased Costs and Worse Outcomes after Major Abdominal Surgery
April 2017 [Source: Annals of Surgery]
Abstract: Objective: To explore the clinical and financial implications of preoperative opioid use in major abdominal surgery. Conclusions: Opioid use is common before abdominopelvic surgery, and is independently associated with increased postoperative healthcare utilization and morbidity. Preoperative opioids represent a potentially modifiable risk factor and a novel target to improve quality and value of surgical care.
Read more...

Pharmacotherapy for Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy Pain and Quality of Life
March 24, 2017 [Source: Neurology]
Abstract: Objective: To systematically assess the effect of pharmacologic treatments of diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN) on pain and quality of life. Methods: We searched PubMed and Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews for systematic reviews from 2011 to October 12, 2015, and PubMed, Embase, and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials for primary studies from January 1, 2013, to May 24, 2016. We searched Clinicaltrials.gov on March 9, 2016. Two reviewers independently evaluated studies for eligibility, serially abstracted data, and independently evaluated risk of bias and graded strength of evidence (SOE).
Read more...

Neuropathic Pain Promotes Adaptive Changes in Gene Expression in Brain Networks Involved in Stress and Depression
March 21, 2017 [Source: Science Signaling]
Abstract: Neuropathic pain is a complex chronic condition characterized by various sensory, cognitive, and affective symptoms. A large percentage of patients with neuropathic pain are also afflicted with depression and anxiety disorders, a pattern that is also seen in animal models. Furthermore, clinical and preclinical studies indicate that chronic pain corresponds with adaptations in several brain networks involved in mood, motivation, and reward. Chronic stress is also a major risk factor for depression.
Read more...
The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

**Trial of Pregabalin for Acute and Chronic Sciatica**
Abstract: Background: Sciatica can be disabling, and evidence regarding medical treatments is limited. Pregabalin is effective in the treatment of some types of neuropathic pain. This study examined whether pregabalin may reduce the intensity of sciatica. Methods: We conducted a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of pregabalin in patients with sciatica. Conclusions: Treatment with pregabalin did not significantly reduce the intensity of leg pain associated with sciatica and did not significantly improve other outcomes, as compared with placebo, over the course of 8 weeks. The incidence of adverse events was significantly higher in the pregabalin group than in the placebo group. (Funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia; PRECISE Australian and New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry number, ACTRN12613000530729).

**Association between Concurrent Use of Prescription Opioids and Benzodiazepines and Overdose: Retrospective Analysis**
Sun EC, Dixit A, Humphreys K, Darnall BD, Baker LC, Mackey S.
Abstract: Objectives To identify trends in concurrent use of a benzodiazepine and an opioid and to identify the impact of these trends on admissions to hospital and emergency room visits for opioid overdose. Conclusions: From 2001 to 2013, concurrent benzodiazepine/opioid use sharply increased in a large sample of privately insured patients in the US and significantly contributed to the overall population risk of opioid overdose.

**Randomized, Double-Blinded, Placebo-Controlled Trial Comparing Two Multimodal Opioid-Minimizing Pain Management Regimens Following Transsphenoidal Surgery**
Shepherd DM, Jahnke H, White WL, Little AS.
Abstract: OBJECTIVE Pain control is an important clinical consideration and quality-of-care metric. No studies have examined postoperative pain control following transsphenoidal surgery for pituitary lesions. The study goals were to 1) report postoperative pain scores following transsphenoidal surgery, 2) determine if multimodal opioid-minimizing pain regimens yielded satisfactory postoperative pain control, and 3) determine if intravenous (IV) ibuprofen improved postoperative pain scores and reduced opioid use compared with placebo. METHODS: This study was a single-center, randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled intervention trial involving adult patients with planned transsphenoidal surgery for pituitary tumors randomized into 2 groups.

PMID: 28298041 DOI: 10.3171/2016.10.JNS161355
Read more...
The following studies and trials are posted at ClinicalTrials.gov:

**Analgesic Efficacy of (MSIR)/Acetaminophen vs. Oxycodone/Acetaminophen (Percocet)**
First received: March 18, 2017
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
Sponsor: Antonios Likourezos
Collaborator: FOJP Service Corporation
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Antonios Likourezos, Maimonides Medical Center
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03088826
Stated Purpose: Oxycodone and Hydrocodone are the most commonly used oral opioid analgesics in the emergency department and in outpatient settings. Both medications have a very high potential for abuse due to the prominence of the euphoric effect (abuse liability) and relative lack of "bad" or "negative" effects (likeability).

Read more...

**A Study to Assess the Analgesic Efficacy and Safety of ASP8062 in Subjects With Fibromyalgia**
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First received: March 10, 2017
Sponsor: Astellas Pharma Global Development, Inc.
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Astellas Pharma Inc (Astellas Pharma Global Development, Inc.)
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03092726
Stated Purpose: The purpose of this study is to assess analgesic efficacy of ASP8062 relative to placebo as well as the safety and tolerability. This study will also assess the treatment differences in physical function as well the improvements in overall subject status (e.g., fibromyalgia symptoms, global functioning) of ASP8062 relative to placebo.

Read more...

**"THINK Trial: Treatment of Headache with IntraNasal Ketamine: A Randomized Controlled Trial Evaluating the Efficacy of Intranasal Ketamine Versus Standard Therapy in the Management of Primary Headache Syndromes in the Emergency Department" (THINK)**
This study is currently recruiting participants.
First received: March 10, 2017
Verified March 2017 by Brooke Army Medical Center
Sponsor: Brooke Army Medical Center
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Danny Villalobos, Brooke Army Medical Center
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03081416
Stated Purpose: This is a randomized, single-blind, placebo controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy of sub-dissociative dose ketamine versus standard care therapy for acute headache management of in patients presenting to the emergency department with headache as the chief compliant.

Read more...

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**Industry News**

FDA Approves Symproic® (naldemedine) Once-Daily Tablets C-II for the Treatment of Opioid-Induced Constipation in Adults with Chronic Non-Cancer Pain
March 23, 2017 [Source: Shionogi Inc. and Purdue Pharma L.P.]
Full story...

NKTR-181 Meets Primary and Secondary Endpoints in Phase 3 SUMMIT-07 Study in Chronic Pain
March 20, 2017 [Source: Nektar Therapeutics]
Full story...

Collegium Announces Scientific Presentation at American Academy of Pain Medicine 2017 Meeting
March 16, 2017 [Source: Collegium Pharmaceutical, Inc.]