

Pain Relief Connection

The Pain Information Newsletter

Provided by MGH Cares About Pain Relief



Archived issues are available at <http://www.MassGeneral.org/PainRelief>

Volume 4, No. 8

August 2005

In this issue:

In the News	Page 1	Pain Education on the Web	Page 2
Department of Error	Page 1	Pain-Related Education Opportunities	Page 2
Safety Note	Page 1	MGH Pain Calendar	Page 2
Journal Watch	Page 2	This month's URL's	Page 3

In the News

- [Redheaded Women Naturally Resistant to Pain](#)
- A year ago the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and a group of pain experts issued a joint statement intended to aid both practitioners and law enforcement officials to understand the legitimate use of opioids to treat pain ([PRC 3\(8\)](#)). In October 2004 the DEA withdrew its support from the document, saying there were factual errors in it ([PRC 3\(11\)](#)). In response to public comments, the DEA has now issued a partial [Clarification of Existing Requirements](#). The DEA had heard from patients on long-term opioids who were seeing their physicians every 3 months but getting opioid prescriptions monthly. The clarification states that there is no Federal requirement that a patient be seen by the prescriber every time a new prescription is written.
- The Massachusetts Pain Initiative [Newsletter](#) is now available. In addition, the 2nd edition of its popular [Pain Management Pocket Tool](#) is now available.
- The FDA must approve the labeling (i.e., prescribing information) for all prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications. In response to the highly publicized findings, especially cardiovascular risks, about both COX-2 and non-selective NSAIDs over the past year, the FDA is proposing new labeling templates for manufacturers of both [prescription](#) and [OTC](#) NSAIDs.
- [Pediatric Pain Letter](#) [O] has resumed online publication.
- A study published by JCAHO shows a modest but significant increase in patient satisfaction with pain control since the JCAHO pain standards were adopted in 2001. Leddy KM & Wolosin RJ. Patient Satisfaction with Pain Control During Hospitalization. *Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety* [M] Sep. 2005;31(9): 507-513
- October 17, 2005 has been named the 2nd annual Global Day Against Pain by the International Association for the Study of Pain ([IASP](#)). The theme this year is Pain in Childhood and corresponds with the launch of the Global Year Against Pain in Childhood. Details will be available soon on the IASP web site.

Department of Error

- Last month [PRC \(4\(7\)\)](#) succumbed to an all-too-common sound-alike/look-alike drug (SALAD) naming error. In our report on the suspension of Palladone, we gave the generic name as hydroCOdone, rather than the correct hydroMORPhone. The error has been corrected in the online version.
- A report on medication errors involving wrong administration technique revealed that 3 of the top 8 drugs administered incorrectly were opioids (morphine, hydromorphone, and fentanyl). Three representative examples were given: crushing a sustained release tablet; misprogramming an infusion pump; giving a rapid high dose of morphine to an opioid naïve patient. Santell JP & Cousins DD. Medication Errors Involving Wrong Administration Technique. *Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety* [M] 2005;31(9): 528-532.

Safety Note

Last month we reported that Palladone (SR hydromorphone) capsules had been removed from the market and that Avinza (SR morphine) labeling is being changed [PRC \(4\(7\)\)](#). These are both related to degradation of the time-

MGH Cares About Pain Relief

Massachusetts General Hospital • Founders 606 • 55 Fruit Street • Boston, MA 02114
617-726-0746 (Phone) • 617-724-8693 (Fax) • PainRelief@Partners.org • <http://www.MassGeneral.org/PainRelief>

To be added to or removed from the *Pain Relief Connection* mailing list, send an email to PainRelief@Partners.org

release pellets in the capsule when the patient also consumes alcohol. We now learn that the other SR morphine capsule, Kadian, has the same issue and it's labeling will be changed to warn about alcohol interaction.

Journal Watch ([M] = full text free access on MGH computers; [O] = open access; [R] = free registration required)

- Berry JD & Petersen KL. A single dose of gabapentin reduces acute pain and allodynia in patients with herpes zoster. *Neurology* [M] 2005;65:444-447.
Accompanying editorial: Tenser RB & Dworkin RH. Herpes zoster and the prevention of postherpetic neuralgia: Beyond antiviral therapy. *Neurology* [M] 2005;65:349-350
- Tom CM. [Management of Acute Pain in Hospitalized Children](#). *US Pharmacist* [O] Aug 2005;8:HS-14-HS-21.
- Bruera E. [Methadone: an essential analgesic to manage pain in cancer](#). (Interview and resources) *Cancer Pain Release* [O] 2005;18(1)

Pain Education on the Web

- Pharmacist.com [Pain Management Library](#).
- New web resource for [Social Workers in End-of-Life and Palliative Care](#).
- The IASP [Core Curriculum for Professional Education in Pain](#), 3rd Ed. Is now available online.

Pain-Related Education Opportunities

- Sep 22-23 (Thu evening-Fri) [First Annual UPMC Pain Management Symposium](#). Pittsburg, PA.
http://www.pain.pitt.edu/archive/news/220905_PainSymposium.htm
- Sep 27 (Tue) 5:30 – 7:30pm [Addressing Disparities in Pain Management: Are Pain and Suffering Equal Opportunity Maladies?](#) Tufts School of Medicine, Sackler Center, 145 Harrison Ave, Boston. CE for MD's, RN's & SW's.
- Oct 6-8 (Thu – Sat) [Chicago Supportive Oncology Conference](#).
<http://www.chicagosupportiveoncology.com/App/homepage.cfm?moduleid=2350&appname=100443>
- Oct 21 – 23 (Fri – Sun) [Practical Aspects of Palliative Medicine](#). Sheraton Boston. Harvard Medical School
- Oct 25 (Tue) 8:00 – 11:30am Using Integrative Pain Management as a Model for Self Care, Harvey Zarren, MD. MassPI fall meeting, Sturbridge. Contact Amy Goldstein to register amy.Goldstein@cancer.org or 508-270-4563. CME & CNE.
- The [EPEC](#) (Education in Palliative and End-of-Life care) curriculum has been revised and is available online. There are 3 pain-related modules available for \$30 each and awarding 1 CME for each. <http://epec.net/EPEC/webpages/index.cfm>
- [Master of Science in Pain Research, Education, and Policy](#), and [Certificate of Advanced Study in Pain Topics](#); Tufts University Medical School. An interdisciplinary postgraduate program. For info call 617-636-8541 or e-mail jconnolly@tufts-NEMC.org. (<http://www.tufts.edu/med/prep/>)
- [Coordinating Care at the End of Life: The Role of Hospice](#). The [American Hospice Foundation](#) announces a new electronic (CD-ROM) CE course with contact hours for nurses, social workers and case managers. Contact Marsha Nelson, at 202-223-0204, Ext. 206 or mnelson@americanhospice.org. (<http://www.americanhospice.org/news/SelfStudy.htm>)

MGH Pain Calendar

- Sep 8 (Thu) 11:00am – 12:00N **Coping with Cancer Pain** (for patients and families), featuring Tom Quinn, RN, MSN, Pain Clinical Nurse Specialist. Cancer Resource Room, Cox 1st floor. Sponsored by HOPES Program.
- Sep 28 – 29 (Wed – Thu) **Betty Ferrell**, RN, PhD, FAAN: Inaugural Knight Visiting Professor. See [Schedule of Events](#).
- Pain Awareness Month Activities:
 - Sep 7 (Wed) **Annual Pain Pulse Survey**—MGH-wide patient survey to get a “snap shot” of the pain experience of our patients
 - Sep 22 (Thu) 9:00am – 2:00pm. Pain Awareness display and 2nd Annual **Pain Projects Expo**, Main Corridor
 - Oct 5 – 6 (Wed – Thu) [End of Life Care Education](#). (Pain is on Day 1). See CCPD educational offerings—box, below.
- **Chronic Pain Rounds are held Mondays at 12:00N in the Clinics 3 amphitheatre.**
 - Sept 12: **The Relaxation Response and Pain**—Herbert Benson, MD
- **Cancer Pain Rounds are held Wednesdays at 12:00N in the Cox 8 Conference Room.**
 - Sep 7: **Chemotherapy Induced Neuropathy**
 - Sep 14: **Ketamine & lidocaine infusion for refractory cancer pain**
 - Sep 21: **Constipation**
 - Sep 28: **Methadone**
- **Palliative Care Grand Rounds are held Wednesdays at 8:00am in the Ether Dome**
 - Sep 7: **Pathophysiology of Pain**—Gary Strichartz, PhD, HMS Pain Research Unit (?)
 - Sep 14: **Decisions and Outcomes of Palliative Surgery in Cancer**—Betty Ferrell, RN, PhD, FAAN

MGH Cares About Pain Relief

Massachusetts General Hospital • Founders 606 • 55 Fruit Street • Boston, MA 02114
617-726-0746 (Phone) • 617-724-8693 (Fax) • PainRelief@Partners.org • <http://www.MassGeneral.org/PainRelief>

To be added to or removed from the *Pain Relief Connection* mailing list, send an email to PainRelief@Partners.org

MGH Pain Resources:

PainRelief web site: <http://www.massgeneral.org/painrelief/>

Previous issues of *Pain Relief Connection*: <http://www.massgeneral.org/painrelief/Newsletter>

Previous Pain Topics articles: http://www.massgeneral.org/painrelief/Pain%20Topics/mghpain_paintopics_index.htm

Patient Care Services Pain Resource Center: http://pcs.mgh.harvard.edu/Secure/Clinical_Resources/Pain_Resources.asp

CCPD educational offerings: http://pcs.mgh.harvard.edu/CCPD/Educational_Offerings/cpd_offerings_calendar.asp

Treadwell Library (Magic): <http://magic.mgh.harvard.edu/>

MGH Formulary (includes patient teaching handouts in 16 languages): <http://www.crlonline.com/crlsql/servlet/crlonline>

Partners Handbook: <http://is.partners.org/handbook/>

Primary Care Office InSite (PCOI) (Clinician and patient information): http://oi.mgh.harvard.edu/pcoi/frontpage_frames.asp

URL notes: **Hold your cursor over the link for a second to see the URL.** If you are reading this in hard copy, this month's links are:

Redheaded women & Pain: <http://health.dailynewscentral.com/content/view/1480/>

DEA Clarification: http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/fed_regs/rules/2005/fr0826.htm

Massachusetts Pain Initiative: <http://www.masspaininitiative.org/>

FDA template for prescription NSAIDs: <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/COX2/NSAIDRxTemplate.pdf>

FDA template for OTC NSAIDs: <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/COX2/NSAIDOTCSupplTRrevised.pdf>

Pediatric Pain Letter: <http://pediatric-pain.ca/ppl/current.shtml>

International Association for the Study of Pain: <http://www.iasp-pain.org/>

Management of Acute Pain in Hospitalized Children: http://www.uspharmacist.com/index.asp?show=article&page=8_1557.htm

Methadone article: http://www.whocancerpain.wisc.edu/eng/18_1/Interview.html

Pharmacist.com Pain Management Library: http://www.pharmacist.com/pain_management/pmp_practitioners.cfm

Social Workers in Palliative Care: <http://www.swlda.org/network/>

IASP Core Curriculum: <http://www.iasp-pain.org/CoreCurriculumThirdEdition.htm>

Are Pain & Suffering Equal Opportunity Maladies? <http://www.tufts.edu/med/prep/Events/index.html>

Practical Aspects of Palliative Medicine: <http://www.hms.harvard.edu/cdi/pallcare/practicalaspects.htm>

MGH Cares About Pain Relief

Massachusetts General Hospital • Founders 606 • 55 Fruit Street • Boston, MA 02114
617-726-0746 (Phone) • 617-724-8693 (Fax) • PainRelief@Partners.org • <http://www.MassGeneral.org/PainRelief>

To be added to or removed from the *Pain Relief Connection* mailing list, send an email to PainRelief@Partners.org