

# Pain Relief Connection

The Pain Information Newsletter

Provided by MGH Cares About Pain Relief



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

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## In this issue:

In the News	Page 1	Other Resources	Page 1
Safety Notes	Page 1	Pain-Related Education Opportunities	Page 2
Patient Resources	Page 1	MGH Pain Calendar	Page 2
Journal Watch	Page 1		

## In the News

- A new opioid-NSAID combination product has been released. [Combunox](#) is an immediate-release product that contains 5 mg oxycodone and 400 mg ibuprofen.

## Safety Notes

The FDA has taken action to improve the safe use of sustained release opioids.

- Palladone (SR hydromorphone), approved only a few months ago, has been voluntarily removed from the market because of concerns that the coating of the product can be degraded by alcohol. [Purdue Pharma](#) and the [FDA](#) have released separate statements. Purdue says it will reformulate the coatings.
- The FDA has [requested](#) that Ligand Pharmaceuticals, manufacturer of Avinza (SR morphine), revise the product label to strengthen its warning about alcohol use. The FDA cited in vivo data suggesting that concurrent use of alcohol interferes with the sustained release characteristics of the product.
- The FDA has issued a [Public Health Advisory](#) that reports deaths in patients inappropriately prescribed Duragesic (transdermal fentanyl). Both the Black Box warning on the product labeling and the patient information sheet state that the product should be used only for patients already taking opioids for persistent pain. Transdermal fentanyl is contraindicated in opioid naïve patients.
- Lyrica (pregabalin), a drug recently approved by the FDA to treat seizures, post-herpetic neuralgia, and diabetic neuropathy may be linked to a serious neurological complication if stopped abruptly, researchers at MGH report in a [pre-publication article](#) in *Annals of Neurology* [Oaklander AI et al. Pregabalin-withdrawal encephalopathy and splenial edema. *Ann Neurol.* [M] 2005 Jun 30.] Symptoms include headache, confusion and hallucinations. The report describes a patient who took pregabalin for a year, then abruptly discontinued the medication.

## Patient Resources

- The FDA has issued a new [medication guide](#) for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), highlighting the recently articulated concerns about cardiac risks while taking COX-2 inhibitors and other NSAIDs.

## Journal Watch

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

- Editorial: [COX 2 inhibitors, traditional NSAIDs, and the heart](#). *BMJ* [O] 11 June 2005;330(7504):1342-1343.
- Taddio A, et al. [Liposomal lidocaine to improve procedural success rates and reduce procedural pain among children: a randomized controlled trial](#). *Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ)* [O] 2005 Jun 1;172(13):1691-1695.
  - Accompanying editorial: Pitetti RD. [Do no harm — but first, do not hurt](#). *Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ)* [O] 2005 Jun 1;172(13):1699.
- Koo PJS. Postoperative pain management with a patient-controlled transdermal delivery system for fentanyl. *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* [M] 1 June 2005;62(11):1171-1176.
- Kim HS, et al. Strategies of Pain Assessment Used by Nurses on Surgical Units. *Pain Management Nursing* March 2005;6(1):3-9

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To be added to or removed from the *Pain Relief Connection* mailing list, send an email to [PainRelief@Partners.org](mailto:PainRelief@Partners.org)

- Hempenstall K, et al. [Analgesic Therapy in Postherpetic Neuralgia: A Quantitative Systematic Review](#). *Public Library of Science Medicine (PloS Med)* [O] July 2005;2(7): e164.
- [Which Treatment for Postherpetic Neuralgia?](#) *PLoS Med* [O] July 2005;2(7): e238 (synopsis of article above)
- Gordon DB, et al. American Pain Society Recommendations for Improving the Quality of Acute and Cancer Pain Management. *Archives of Internal Medicine* [M] 2005;165:1574-1580.

## Other Resources

- Gloth FM, Ed. (2004). *Pain Relief in Older Adults: An Evidence-Based Approach*. Totowa, New Jersey: Humana Press, 2004, 288 pages, \$99.50.
- Wrede-Seaman (2005). *Pediatric Pain and Symptom Management Algorithms for Palliative Care*. Yakima, WA: Intellicard. Available from [Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association](#).

## Pain-Related Education Opportunities

- Oct 6-8 (Thu – Sat) [Chicago Supportive Oncology Conference](#).  
<http://www.chicagosupportiveoncology.com/App/homepage.cfm?moduleid=2350&apname=100443>
- 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](#), Tufts University Medical School. An interdisciplinary postgraduate program. For info call 617-636-8541 or e-mail [jconnolly@tufts-NEMC.org](mailto: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](mailto:mnelson@americanhospice.org). (<http://www.americanhospice.org/news/SelfStudy.htm>)

## MGH Pain Calendar

- Aug 11 (Thu) 11:00am – 12:00N **Coping with Cancer Pain** (for patients and families), featuring Annabel Edwards, ANP, Cancer Pain Team Nurse Practitioner. Cancer Resource Room, Cox 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Sponsored by HOPES Program.
- 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 Month display** and 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **Pain Projects Expo**, Main Corridor
- **Chronic Pain Rounds are held Mondays at 12:00N in the Clinics 3 amphitheatre.**
- **Cancer Pain Rounds are held Wednesdays at 12:00N in the Cox 8 Conference Room.**
- **Palliative Care Grand Rounds are not offered in July & August**

### 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](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](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](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](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:

Combunox web site: <http://www.combunox.com/>

Purdue Pharma statement on Palladone suspension: <http://www.purduepharma.com/pressroom/news/20050713-01.pdf>

FDA statement on Palladone suspension: <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/palladone/default.htm>

Article on Avinza re-labeling: [http://www.pharmacychoice.com/News/article.cfm?Article\\_ID=9203](http://www.pharmacychoice.com/News/article.cfm?Article_ID=9203)

FDA Advisory on Duragesic: <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/advisory/fentanyl.htm>

Abstract of article on Lyrica (pregabalin) safety: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/abstract/110550905/ABSTRACT>

FDA medication guide on NSAIDs: <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/COX2/NSAIDmedguide.htm>

*BMJ* editorial on COX-2 & NSAID safety: <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/330/7504/1342>

Liposomal lidocaine article: <http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/172/13/1691>; <http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/172/13/1699>

PHN: <http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserver/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pmed.0020164>

Order Pediatric Pain & Symptom Management: [http://www.hpna.org/Pub\\_Algorithm\\_PedPain.asp](http://www.hpna.org/Pub_Algorithm_PedPain.asp)

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