

Pain Relief Connection

The Pain Information Newsletter

Provided by MGH Cares About Pain Relief,
a program of Patient Care Services

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



Volume 6, No. 11

November 2007

In this issue:

In the News	Page 1	Pain Resources on the Web	Page 2
Journal Watch	Page 1-2	Pain Education on the Web	Page 2
CAM	Page 2	MGH Pain Calendar	Page 2

In the News

- New labeling information was approved by the FDA for Celecoxib (wording not yet available).
- Judge Breyer (San Francisco), ruled November 19th that there was no “scientifically reliable evidence that Celebrex causes heart attacks or strokes at the 200 milligram a day dose.” Claiming testimony by plaintiff-hired experts “ignores all the evidence that contradicts her litigation-created conclusion.”
- The Veterans Pain Care Act of 2007, [S 2160](#), was passed by the Senate Veteran’s Affairs Committee 11/14/07. The bill would enhance medical and mental health services; including effective management of acute and chronic pain to improve the quality of life for all wounded veterans. [Contact](#) your Senator now.
- The [Pain Care Policy Act of 2007](#), sponsored by representatives Lois Capps (D-CA) and Mike Rogers (R-MI) already has 13 cosponsors, and many are senior members of the Committee that is expected to vote on the bill next month. [Contact](#) your representatives to [support](#) better education and research on pain.
- All people with a [Medicare drug plan](#) need to complete their [yearly Medicare Enrollment Review](#) between now and the end of the year. Encourage people with Medicare to re-enroll in a drug plan, review their health care and drug coverage, and make changes. Extra help is available (\leq \$3,600) for people with limited income and resources.
- The Drug Enforcement Administration ([DEA](#)) is amending its regulations (effective December 19, 2007) to allow practitioners to provide individual patients with multiple prescriptions, to be filled sequentially, for a schedule II drug, with the combined effect of allowing a patient to receive over time up to a 90-day supply.

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

Did you know that MGHers can obtain articles from journals to which Treadwell Library does not subscribe? From the [Treadwell home page](#), go to 'Order Articles' under the 'Quick Picks' banner on the left.

- Kwewweboom KL, Bumpus M, Wanta B, et al. (2007) Oncology [Nurses' Use of Nondrug](#) Pain Interventions in Practice. *J of Pain Symptom Management* (Epub ahead of print) ([\[M\]](#)) A national survey of oncology nurses show usage patterns of 54% for music, 40% for guided imagery, 82% for relaxation & 80% for distraction. Use was predicted by nurses’ beliefs about effectiveness and support for carrying out the intervention.
- Dutt-Gupta J, Bown T, Cyna AM, (2007) Effect of communication on [pain during intravenous cannulation](#): a randomized controlled trial. *British Journal of Anaesthesia*, 99(6):871-5([\[M\]](#)). Type of sensory information provided to patients before venipuncture can affect their pain experience. Warning of “sting” ~not helpful.
- Sciubba DM, Lin LM, Conway JE, et al. (2007) Development of [Scoliosis Following Intrathecally Placed Opioid Pump](#) for Chronic Low Back Pain. *Spine*, 32:E718-E722 ([\[M\]](#)) Concerning case study raises possibility of harm from implanted devices. Scoliosis also reported with other types of implanted devices.
- Wahner AD, Bronstein JM, et al. (2007) Nonsteroidal [anti-inflammatory drugs may protect](#) against Parkinson disease. *Neurology*, 69: 1836-1842. ([\[M\]](#)) Neuroinflammation, and activated microglia are implicated in Parkinson disease development. This retrospective population-based study suggests enough of a protective benefit to patients taking NSAIDs that further prospective studies are warranted.

MGH Cares About Pain Relief

Massachusetts General Hospital

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 pmarnstein@partners.org

- McNeill JA, Reynolds J, Ney ML. (2007) [Unequal Quality of Cancer Pain Management](#): Disparity in Perceived Control and Proposed Solutions. *Oncology Nursing Forum*, 34 (6):1121-1128. ([M] Well written.
- Dworkin RH, O'Connor AB, Backonja M, et al. (2007) [Pharmacologic management of neuropathic pain](#): Evidence-based recommendations. *Pain*, 132 :237-251([M] Results of an international consensus meeting by thought-leaders on the topic. Practical guide with helpful charts, and stepped approach to diagnosis & Rx.
- Enting RH, Oldenmenger WH, Van Gool AR, et al. (2007) The Effects of Analgesic Prescription and [Patient Adherence on Pain](#) in a Dutch Outpatient Cancer Population. ([M] *Journal of Pain & Symptom Management*, 34(5):523-531. Further evidence cancer pain remains undertreated. When treated, adherence rates are far better than with other chronic conditions. Better adherence in patients with more severe pain.
- Kroenke K, Shen J, Oxman TE, et al. (2007). [Impact of pain on the outcomes of depression](#) treatment: Results from the RESPECT trial. *Pain*. Epub ahead of print. ([M] Pain interferes with response of depression to treatment. Recognizing and optimizing the management of comorbid pain that commonly coexists with depression may be important in enhancing depression response and remission rates. Both baseline pain and the amount of pain improvement over time were associated with depression remission and response rates.

CAM

- [Treatment Preferences for CAM](#) in children. When given a choice, children with chronic pain, irrespective of diagnosis, preferred non-invasive approaches that enhanced relaxation and increased somatic control.
- [Healing touch](#): Unclear how it works or if it works predictably, Healing Touch gained national press because of compelling reports that it relieves pain and speeds healing.
- Most patients with arthritis use common non-drug pain relieving approaches. A study in this month's [Clinical Journal of Pain](#) showed African American communities had higher utilization rates of relaxation, massage, and nutritional therapies than other groups.

Pain Resources on the Web

- New website <http://www.empainline.org> for researchers & clinicians interested in pain in the Emergency Room. Site includes references, clinical tools, resources, calendar, commentary & a training [opportunity](#).
- The International Association for the Study of Pain has 18 fact sheets related to [gender differences](#) in pain.
- [Partnership for Prescription Assistance](#) (PPA), sponsored by America's pharmaceutical research companies, is a central clearinghouse that connects individuals who are uninsured or lack adequate healthcare coverage to programs that provide prescription medicines for free or nearly free.
- APF and The HealthCentral Network, are collaborating on consumer-focused projects, including a blog on the topic of pain written by APF executive director Will Rowe, available at [Chronic Pain Connection](#).

Pain Education on the Web [free registration required on most sites]

- Over 20 newly-released continuing medical education (CME) courses have been added at [Pain-Topics.org](#).

MGH Pain Calendar

- *Chronic Pain Rounds are held Mondays at 12:00N in the Jackson 412Lecture Hall.* Mailing list: ttolandatpartnersdotorg
- *Palliative Care Grand Rounds are held Wednesdays at 8:00am in the Ether Dome.* Mailing list: nalawlessatpartnersdotorg

MGH Pain Resources:

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

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

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

MGH Pain Resources Page: http://www.massgeneral.org/painrelief/MGH_Pain_Resources.htm

The MGH Center for Translational Pain Research: <http://www.massgeneral.org/painresearch/index.html>

CCPD educational offerings: http://www.massgeneral.org/pcs/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

MGH Cares About Pain Relief

Massachusetts General Hospital

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 pmarnstein@partners.org