

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>



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In this issue:

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

In the News

- The FDA announced a Class I [recall of Medtronic Neuromodulation Implantable Infusion Pumps](#), due to inflammatory mass formations at or near the distal tip of intrathecal catheters. While this problem has a higher risk of occurrence with higher concentration, higher volume infusions, it also occurs with lower levels as well.
- The Institute for Safe Medication Practices has published a new “[Do Not Crush](#)” list. Of note, only 3 items on their list warn of potentially fatal occurrences if crushed, and all three are analgesics.
- New strengths (7.5mg, 15mg & 30mg) of [Opana® ER](#) (oxymorphone extended release) will be available 4/1/08.

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.

- Syrjala KL, Abrams JR, Polissar NL et al. (2008). [Patient training in cancer pain](#) management using integrated print & video materials: A multisite randomized controlled trial. *Pain*, 135 :175-186. Patients were randomized to receive educational programs on either pain or nutrition. Those educated in pain had less pain, more opioid use, fewer barriers to pain control and apparently a better ability to communicate their pain to professionals.
- Hanson LC, Usher B, Spragens L, et al.(2008) Clinical and Economic [Impact of Palliative Care Consultation](#) *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 35 (4): 340-346. Supports cost effectiveness of palliative care.
- Anghelescu DL, Ross CE, Oakes LL, et al. (2008). The Safety of Concurrent Administration of Opioids via [Epidural and Intravenous](#) Routes for Postoperative Pain in Pediatric Oncology Patients. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 35 (4):412-419. Pediatric oncology patients (N=117) received both epidural opioids and intravenous opioids postoperatively. One child (<1%) had significant respiratory depression (dosing error).
- Frei SP, Bond WF, Bazuro RK, et al. (2008) Is early analgesia associated with delayed treatment of [appendicitis](#)? *American Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 26:176-80. Early NSAID use was associated with a 2 fold increased risk of delay in surgery, but opioid analgesics did not delay treatment.
- Hofmann-Kiefer K, Eiser T, Chappell D, et al. (2008). Does patient-controlled [continuous interscalene block](#) improve early functional rehabilitation after open shoulder surgery? *Anesthesia & Analgesia*, 106:991-6. Random assignment (N=87) to either patient-controlled interscalene block (PCISB) or patient-controlled opioid analgesia (PCA) found PCISB improved analgesia, but not function, during early rehabilitation of the shoulder.
- Sun T, Sacan O, White PF, et al. (2008). [Perioperative versus postoperative celecoxib](#) on patient outcomes after major plastic surgery procedures. *Anesthesia & Analgesia*, 106:950-8. Celecoxib (400mg) given the day of surgery & next 3 days; effectively improves pain, speed and quality of recovery after major plastic surgery.
- Epps CD, Ware LJ, Packard A. (2008). [Ethnic waiting time differences](#) in analgesic administration in the Emergency Department. *Pain Management Nursing*, 9 (1):26-32. Hispanics waited almost twice as long as European Americans (EA) or African Americans (AA) when presenting with long-bone fractures. Interestingly 60% of Hispanics were 2-5 times more likely (than AA or EA respectively) to not have their pain measured.
- Moryl N, Coyle N, Foley KM. (2008) Managing an [acute pain crisis](#) in a patient with advanced cancer. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 299 (12):1457-67. A must-read “as much a crisis as a code”

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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

CAM Resources

- Pittler MH. (2008). [Static magnets for reducing pain](#). *Focus on Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 13 (1): 5-10. A systematic review of 25 trials suggest magnets may help peripheral joint osteoarthritis, but not other painful conditions. Suggestions for practice and research are made.
- Time To Talk campaign, NCCAM has developed a [toolkit](#) of educational materials for you, your staff, and your patients. [Order your toolkit online](#) or call 1-888-644-6226 and use reference code D392.
- Wood C, Bioy A. (2008). [Hypnosis and Pain in Children](#). *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 35 (4):437-446. Nice review of concepts and approaches to hypnosis in children. Gives an excellent basis for understanding what hypnosis is and how it works to change perceptions of pain.
- Roy M, Peretz I, Rainville P. (2008) [Emotional valence contributes to music-induced analgesia](#). *Pain*, 134:140-147 Pain was experimentally induced in 18 subjects The more pleasant the person rated the music, the greater the association with lower pain scores. In contrast, the unpleasant excerpts did not modulate pain significantly, and warmth perception was not affected by the presence of pleasant or unpleasant music. Those results support that music the patient finds pleasant should be used to help reduce pain.

Pain Resources on the Web

- There is new information on [methadone](#) for professionals and patients that has been added to the website Pain-Topics.org. This content is supported by a recent [ISMP Alert on preventing methadone](#) overdoses.
- The American Society of Consulting Pharmacists is accepting applications for [traineeships in Pain Management](#). The 12 selected pharmacists will need to be available for 5 days beginning either June 23rd or September 22nd with a Sunday afternoon orientation before the training.
- The Joint Commission is developing a certification process to recognize Palliative Care programs that adhere to high standards for quality and safety. They are seeking feedback on the [proposed Palliative Care standards](#).
- Send a [note to your legislators](#) to support important current bills designed to improve pain care.

Pain-Related Education Opportunities

- Wednesday April 2nd 8am-12, Massachusetts Pain Initiative will hold its spring meeting in Sturbridge MA with Ron Kulich, PhD and Jane Ballantyne MD discussing Opioids. Contact jeanne.connolly@tufts.edu for details.
- Sat. April 5th a Pain Management Nursing Certification Exam [Prep Course](#) will be held in Meriden, CT
- Friday April 25, the [4th Annual VA Pain Management Update](#) will be held in Jackson, MS
- Wed-Sat, May 7-10th [American Pain Society 27th Annual Scientific Meeting](#) will be held in Tampa, Florida
- Friday, May 30th [Women in Pain Conference: Gender Matters](#) will be held in Duarte, CA
- 2008 Annual Conference of the New England Pain Association, *Pain In Special Populations* to be held at Back Bay Hilton Hotel, has been tentatively reschedule for November 7-9th, 2008. Save the date! nepa@rcn.com

MGH Pain Calendar

- **Chronic Pain Rounds are held Mondays at 12:00N in the Ether Dome.** Mailing list: ttoland@partners.org
- **Palliative Care Grand Rounds held Wednesdays at 8:00am in the Ether Dome.** Mailing: nalawless@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/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

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