

The Journal of Pain

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Volume 14, Number 9, September 2013

Critical Review

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Behavioral Pain Indicators in People With Intellectual Disabilities: A Systematic Review

Nanda C. de Knegt, Marjoleine J. C. Pieper, Frank Lobbezoo,
Carlo Schuengel, Heleen M. Evenhuis, Jan Passchier, and
Erik J. A. Scherder

People with intellectual disabilities (IDs) have a higher risk of painful medical conditions. Partly because of the impaired ability to communicate about it, pain is often undertreated. To strengthen pain assessment in this population, the authors conducted a systematic review to identify behavioral pain indicators in this population by using several sources (Embase, PubMed, PsycINFO, CINAHL, and Cochrane). This set of indicators could potentially help clinicians to recognize pain in this population, especially when unique individual pain responses are also identified.

ON THE COVER

Pain is a cardinal symptom of inflammation. In the early stages, neutrophils and monocytes/macrophages are recruited as part of the innate immune response. Because pain and leukocyte recruitment commonly occur simultaneously, all leukocytes are presumed to contribute to the generation of pain. To study the molecular links between the recruitment of leukocyte subpopulations and inflammatory hyperalgesia, the authors used local injection of specific chemokines as a tool for more selective leukocyte recruitment. See Pflücke, et al, page 897.

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Original Reports

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The Molecular Link Between C-C-Chemokine Ligand 2-Induced Leukocyte Recruitment and Hyperalgesia

Diana Pflücke, Dagmar Hackel, Shaaban A. Mousa, Anna Partheil, Annick Neumann, Alexander Brack, and Heike L. Rittner

Pain is a cardinal symptom of inflammation. In the early stages of inflammation, neutrophils and monocytes/macrophages are recruited as part of the innate immune response. Because pain and leukocyte recruitment commonly occur simultaneously, all leukocytes are presumed to contribute to the generation of pain. To study the molecular links between the recruitment of leukocyte subpopulations and inflammatory hyperalgesia, the authors used local injection of specific chemokines as a tool for more selective leukocyte recruitment. The conclusions of this study encourage pharmacological efforts targeting chemokine ligand 2-chemokine receptor type 2 for treatment of inflammatory pain.

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Developing a Model of Associations Between Chronic Pain, Depressive Mood, Chronic Fatigue, and Self-Efficacy in People With Spinal Cord Injury

Ashley Craig, Yvonne Tran, Philip Siddall, Nirupama Wijesuriya, Judy Lovas, Roger Bartrop, and James Middleton

Chronic pain, chronic fatigue, and depressive mood are prevalent in people with spinal cord injury (SCI). The relationship between these conditions requires clarification, and the objective of this research was to investigate the relationships in adults with SCI. Seventy participants completed an assessment regimen of demographic and psychometric measures. Results show that participants with high levels of chronic pain had clinically elevated depressive mood, confusion, fatigue, anxiety and anger, low vigor, and poor self-efficacy. Implications of these results for managing chronic pain in adults with SCI are considered.

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Endogenous Inhibition of Somatic Pain Is Impaired in Girls With Irritable Bowel Syndrome Compared With Healthy Girls

Amy E. Williams, Margaret Heitkemper, Mariella M. Self, Danita I. Czyzewski, and Robert J. Shulman

Endogenous pain inhibition is often deficient in adults with chronic pain conditions including irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). It has been questioned whether deficiencies in pain inhibition are present in young children with IBS. This work compared endogenous pain inhibition, somatic pain threshold, and psychosocial distress in young girls with IBS versus controls. Findings show that young females with IBS have deficient endogenous pain inhibition compared to healthy girls. This information can help clinicians identify risk factors for onset and maintenance of IBS and other chronic pain conditions.

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Engendering Pain Management Practices: The Role of Physician Sex on Chronic Low-Back Pain Assessment and Treatment Prescriptions

Sónia F. Bernardes, Margarida Costa, and Helena Carvalho

The impact of physician sex on dimensions of medical care such as treatment prescriptions and referrals has been underexplored, especially in a pain context. This research shows that physician sex moderates the influence of clinical cues on pain management practices and the mediating role of pain judgments on these effects. It may potentially increase clinicians' awareness of the influence of gender assumptions on pain management practices and contribute to the development of more gender-sensitive services.

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Increased Axonal Regeneration and Swellings in Intraepidermal Nerve Fibers Characterize Painful Phenotypes of Diabetic Neuropathy

Hsinlin T. Cheng, Jacqueline R. Dauch, Michael T. Porzio, Brandon M. Yanik, Wilson Hsieh, A. Gordon Smith, J. Robinson Singleton, and Eva L. Feldman

Over 20 million Americans are affected by diabetes mellitus. Sixty percent develop diabetic neuropathy (DN), which originates in the distal lower extremities and is frequently associated with pain (DN-P) early in the disease course. This research examined changes in intraepidermal nerve fibers to differentiate among different types of patients. Punch skin biopsies were collected from the proximal thigh and distal leg of study subjects.

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The Effect of Neuroticism on the Recall of Persistent Low-Back Pain and Perceived Activity Interference

John C. Lefebvre and Francis J. Keefe

The Original Pain Recall Assessment asks people to recall pain experienced over a specific period by tracing a single line in a graph to represent their pain levels. This methodology was used to investigate the effects of neuroticism on the recall of levels and patterns of persistent pain. Participants completed a measure of neuroticism, depressive symptoms, and daily diaries that asked for ratings of pain intensity, pain unpleasantness, and activity interference due to pain. Analyses showed that higher levels of neuroticism were related to significantly better recall of the variability of pain unpleasantness over time. Also, individuals who reported higher levels of depressive symptoms were less accurate in recalling pain.

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Crossing the Line of Pain: fMRI Correlates of Crossed-Hands Analgesia

Diana M. Torta, Matteo Diano, Tommasco Costa, Alberto Gallace, Sergio Duca, Giuliano C. Geminiani, and Franco Cauda

Crossing the hands over the body midline reduces the perceived intensity of nociceptive stimuli applied to the hands by impairing the ability to localize somatosensory stimuli. Crossed-hands analgesia has not been investigated previously, although it has been proposed that the effect may be modulated by multimodal areas. This report used functional magnetic resonance imaging to test the hypothesis that crossed-hands analgesia is mediated by higher-order multimodal areas rather than by specific somatosensory ones. This phenomenon was shown to be mediated by multimodal areas such as the posterior parietal, cingulate, and insular cortices, implicated in space and body representation.

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Pain Treatment for Older Adults During Prehospital Emergency Care: Variations by Patient Gender and Pain Severity

Timothy F. Platts-Mills, Katherine M. Hunold, Mark A. Weaver, Ryan M. Dickey, Antonio R. Fernandez, Roger B. Fillingim, Charles B. Cairns, and Samuel A. McLean

This research analyzed all ambulance transports in 2011 in the state of North Carolina and compared the administration of any analgesic or an opioid among older adults (aged 65 and older) versus adults aged 18 to 64. More than 400,000 transports were examined. During prehospital care, older adults were generally less likely to receive pain treatment. However, older women with severe pain were more likely to receive treatment than younger women with severe pain. These results suggest an interaction between age, gender, and pain severity in pain treatment.

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Validation of the Sickle Cell Disease Pain Burden Interview–Youth

William T. Zempsky, Emily A. O'Hara, James P. Santanelli, Tonya M. Palermo, Tamara New, Kim Smith-Whitley, and James F. Casella

The purpose of this study was to develop and validate a brief, clinically relevant, multidimensional interview to assess pain burden among children and adolescents with sickle cell disease (SCD). The Sickle Cell Disease Pain Burden Interview–Youth (SCPBI-Y) was developed using a panel of experts, patients, and caregivers. Validation was undertaken with youth with SCD, ages 7 to 21 years. This work introduces and validates a brief, clinically useful multidimensional interview to evaluate pain burden specific to youth with SCD.

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Multisystem Dysregulation in Painful Temporomandibular Disorders

Hong Chen, Andrea Nackley, Vanessa Miller, Luda Diatchenko, and William Maixner

Multiple physiological and psychological regulatory domains may contribute to the pathophysiology of pain in temporomandibular disorder (TMD) and other bodily pain conditions. Therefore, the relationship between bodily pain profiles and the underlying pathophysiology for TMD pain warrants further exploration to better inform mechanism-based diagnosis and treatment in TMD. The purpose of this study was to evaluate these relationships and to explore the presence of different numbers of comorbid pain conditions in TMD.

Letters to the Editor

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How Should We Interrogate the ClinicalTrials.gov Database?

Steve N. Quesy

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Using Sherlock and ClinicalTrials.gov Data to Understand Nocebo Effects and Adverse Event Dropout Rates in the Placebo Arm

M. Soledad Cepeda, Victor Lobanov, and Jesse A. Berlin

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