The Journal of Pain

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Critical Reviews

Self-reported pain intensity assessments are central to chronic pain research. Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA) methodologies are uniquely positioned to collect these data, and are being utilized in the field. However, EMA protocols are complex, and many decisions are necessary in the design of EMA research studies. A systematic literature review identified 105 articles drawing from 62 quantitative EMA research projects examining pain intensity in adult chronic pain patients. In this article, recommendations are provided for reporting to improve reproducibility, comparability, and interpretation of results, and for opportunities to clarify the importance of design decisions.

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ON THE COVER

Pain after spinal cord injury (SCI-Pain) is often characterized as relentless, excruciating pain that is largely refractory to treatments. While it is generally agreed that SCI-Pain results from maladaptive plasticity in the pain processing pathway that includes the spinothalamic tract and somatosensory thalamus, the specific mechanisms underlying the development and maintenance of such pain are yet unclear. This research discusses mechanisms that may influence SCI-Pain. See Park, et al, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpain.2018.02.002.

Original Reports