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**In the News**

- SAMHSA offers some free pocket guides to help professionals understand and use medication-assisted treatments for opioid use disorder.
- Medline recalls acetaminophen 325mg tabs (100/bottle) that are mislabeled 500mg strength tablets in lot # 45810.
- Senate & Emergency Room physician groups ask Medicare to stop asking patients about pain care quality; stating this promotes opioid use.
- Joint Commission clarifies and defends pain standards that assessing & treating pain is part of quality care without demanding more opioids.
- U.N. to consider addressing unbalanced drug policies that pit law-enforcement against public-health and scientific need for access to opioids.
- IV opioid abusers are shooting up in and around hospitals or where Narcan is easily available, so they can be rescued from the brink of death.
- Maine passes tough new law to curb opioid abuse and diversion passed in Maine, that includes limits on dose, duration and other elements.
- Busy legislators craft laws to find bipartisan solutions addressing opioid access, drug abuse & addiction treatment.
- The National Rx Drug Take-Back Day April 30th 10AM – 2PM aims to safely dispose of unused drugs. MGH event will be May 3rd & 4th.

**Journal Watch** [MGHers can obtain articles through the Treadwell home page]

- Sidiropoulou T, Giavasopoulos E, Kostopanagiotou G, et al. Perioperative pregabalin for postoperative pain relief after thoracotomy. J Anesth Surg 2016 3(2):1-6 Perioperative pregabalin contributes to desired outcomes, including less pain, nausea and vomiting, better patient satisfaction scores and prevention of chronic neuropathic pain. Dose of 75mg Q12H started day before surgery until 5 days post-op was used.
Journal Watch  [MGHers can obtain articles through the Treadwell home page] (continued)


Pain Resources on the Web:

- The National Cancer Institute PDQ research review examines the benefits and harms of Cannabis or Cannabinoid – based treatments.
- RELIEF; is a new website for the public that provides free news, articles, interviews and webinars on the latest pain research.
- The Centre for Pediatric Pain Research has updated resources and tools to help clinicians, researchers and children with pain.

CIH (Complementary Integrative Health approaches; formerly called Complementary Alternative Medicine [CAM])

- Shuangbai San, a Chinese herb, when externally rubbed on the abdomen can reduce mild liver cancer pain.
- Mindfulness & yoga or CBT cut pain-related distress & improved functioning than usual low back pain care at 6 & 12 months.
- Professional societies collaborate to form guidelines on herbal and nutritional products for migraine sufferers.
- Craniosacral Therapy is safe for chronic neck pain with some sustained benefits in pain, quality of life and functioning noted at 2 & 5 months.

Pain-Related Education Opportunities

- Wed – Sat, May 11th – 14th, 2016, the American Pain Society 35th Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Austin, TX.
- Sun – Tues, June, 5th – 7th, 2016 International Conference on Opioids will review the latest evidence on benefits & harms. Boston, MA
- Mon, May 23, 2016, 8AM – 4PM Pain Management Nursing Certification Preparation class. Newton Wellsley Hospital
- Mon – Fri, June, 20th – 24th, 2016 Evaluating & Treating Pain. Top-notch pain training through Harvard Medical School CME

MGH Pain Calendar

- Tools and Techniques for Effective Pain Management (Level II) – Tuesday, June 7, 2016 Founders House 325 @ 8AM – 1PM Sign-up.
- Palliative Care Grand Rounds are Wednesday mornings from 8AM – 9AM, Ether Dome. email: Margaret Spinale for more information
- Chronic Pain Rounds in MGH Ether Dome. Email Tina Toland for details.

MGH Pain Resources

The Patient Education Television: Dial 4-5212 from patient’s phone then order: (see handbook) http://handbook_partners.org/pages/168 for listing: #120 Acute Pain #279 for Chronic Pain; #280 for Cancer Pain; #281 for Communicating Pain; #282 for Pain Medications; Excellence Every Day Pain Portal Page: http://www.mghpcs.org/eed_portal/EED_pain.asp
The MGH Center for Translational Pain Research: http://www.massgeneral.org/painresearch
MGH Palliative Care: http://www.massgeneral.org/palliativecare
MGH Formulary (includes patient teaching handouts in 16 languages): http://www.crlonline.com/crlsql/servlet/crlonline
Intranet site for MGH use to locate pain assessment tools and policies: http://intranet.massgeneral.org/pcs/Pain/index.asp

MGH Cares About Pain Relief Massachusetts General Hospital
PainRelief@partners.org http://www.mghpcs.org/painrelief

To be added to or removed from the Pain Relief Connection mailing list, send an email to pmarnstein@partners.org