

# LAYOUT

DB#: Module 1: Glossary callouts

Circulation Round

0 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Team Review:

Initial

Date

Executive Team:

Creative:

Medical:

Client Services:

Project Management:

Event Planning:

Operations:

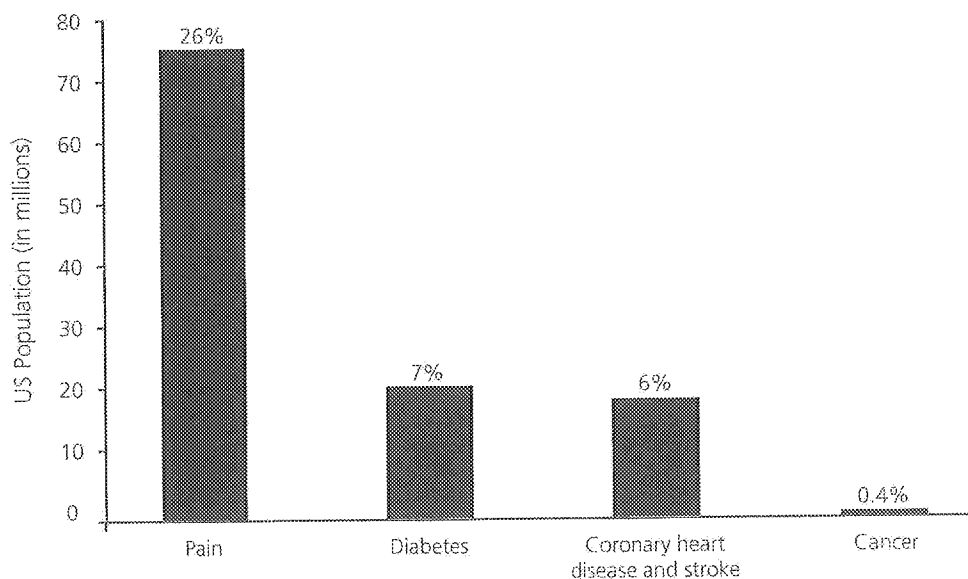
major components: persistent pain  
ersistent pain is chronic pain that lasts  
to a transient exacerbation of pain  
ise stable, baseline persistent pain.<sup>6</sup>  
e persistent pain treated with around-  
BTP can be severe in intensity, with  
short duration. It occurs because of  
pain, for idiopathic reasons, or during  
ATC medications.<sup>6,7</sup> Therefore, the 3  
ain; (2) idiopathic pain; and (3) end-  
ly impact a patient's quality of life and  
to provide adequate pain medications  
d.

close up and delete hyphen

port experiencing pain that has persisted  
dividuals than those with a diagnosis  
er combined (Figure 1).<sup>8</sup> Estimates of  
t commonly defined as pain lasting for  
%.<sup>9, 10, 11, 12</sup> Some of the most common  
States include joint pain, low back pain,  
migraine.<sup>13</sup>

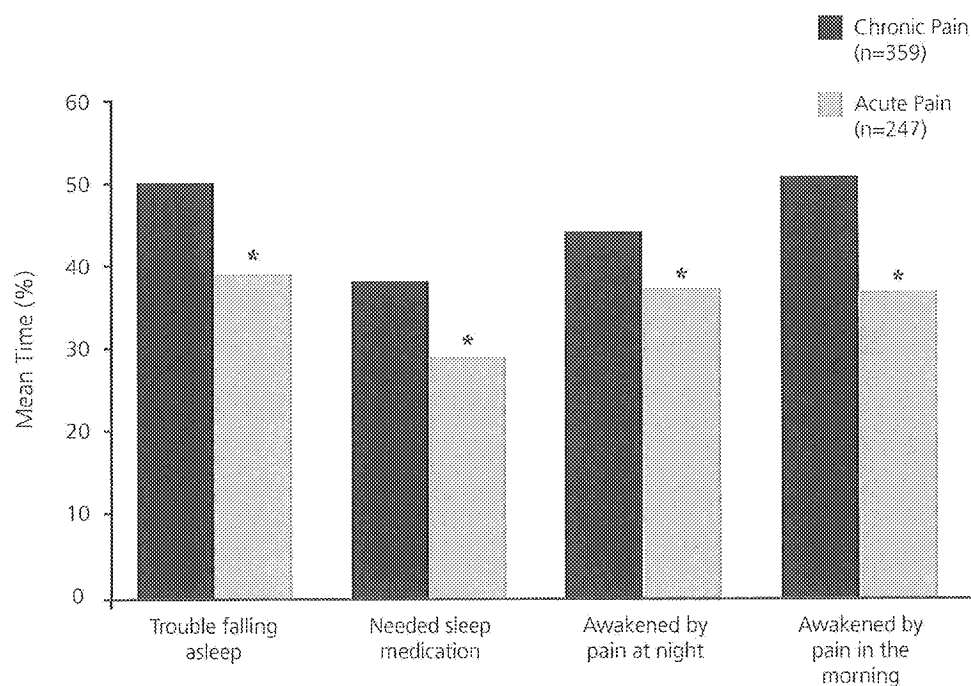
Notes:

ain, Diabetes, Heart Disease,  
and Cancer in the United States



Source: American Pain Foundation Web site. <http://www.painfoundation.org>.<sup>8</sup>

Figure 3. Impact of Pain on Sleep



\* $P < 0.05$  between chronic and acute pain groups.

Source: McCarberg BH et al. *Am J Ther.* 2008;15:312-320.<sup>14</sup>

Chronic pain exerts negative effects on employment status and work productivity.<sup>14</sup> Approximately one-third of patients with chronic pain report that they are worried about losing their job because of their pain disorder. Patients report losing an average of 19.2 workdays per year because of chronic pain.<sup>14</sup> Among workers actively engaged in work, chronic pain associated with headache, arthritis, back problems, and other musculoskeletal conditions costs up to \$60 billion per year in lost productivity.<sup>15</sup>

## Neurobiology of Pain

### Pain Pathways and Mechanisms

Nociception is the process by which **noxious sensory stimuli** are transmitted from the periphery to the central nervous system. Information acquired from the environment is processed at the spinal cord levels and then relayed to the neocortex and cingulate cortex—2 major cortical areas involved in pain processing.

noxious sensory stimuli—Thermal, mechanical, or chemical stimuli that interact with the nerve terminals in the peripheral nervous system to elicit a pain response.

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uraxis  
ior  
S.<sup>16</sup>

Notes:

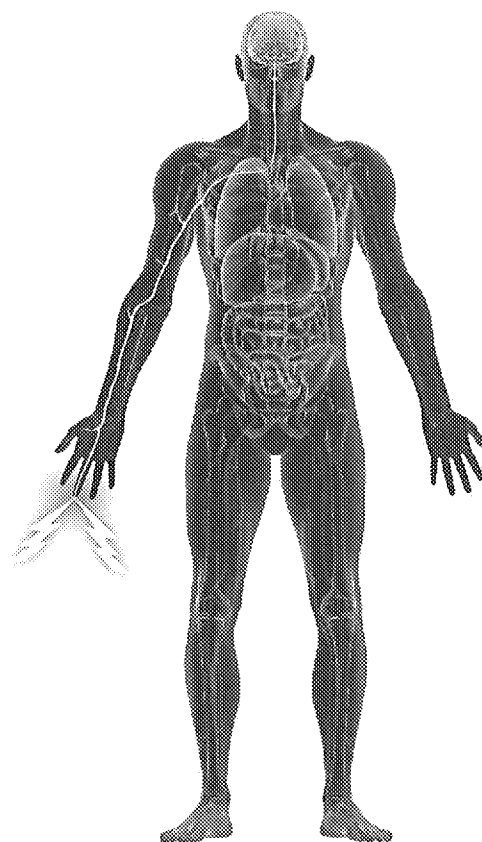
Notes:

Nociception is described as occurring in 4 or 5 stages (many descriptions combine the transmission and conduction stages) (Figure 5).<sup>17</sup> During **transduction**, energy from a noxious thermal, mechanical, or chemical

transduction—The process by which painful stimuli are transformed into nerve impulses.

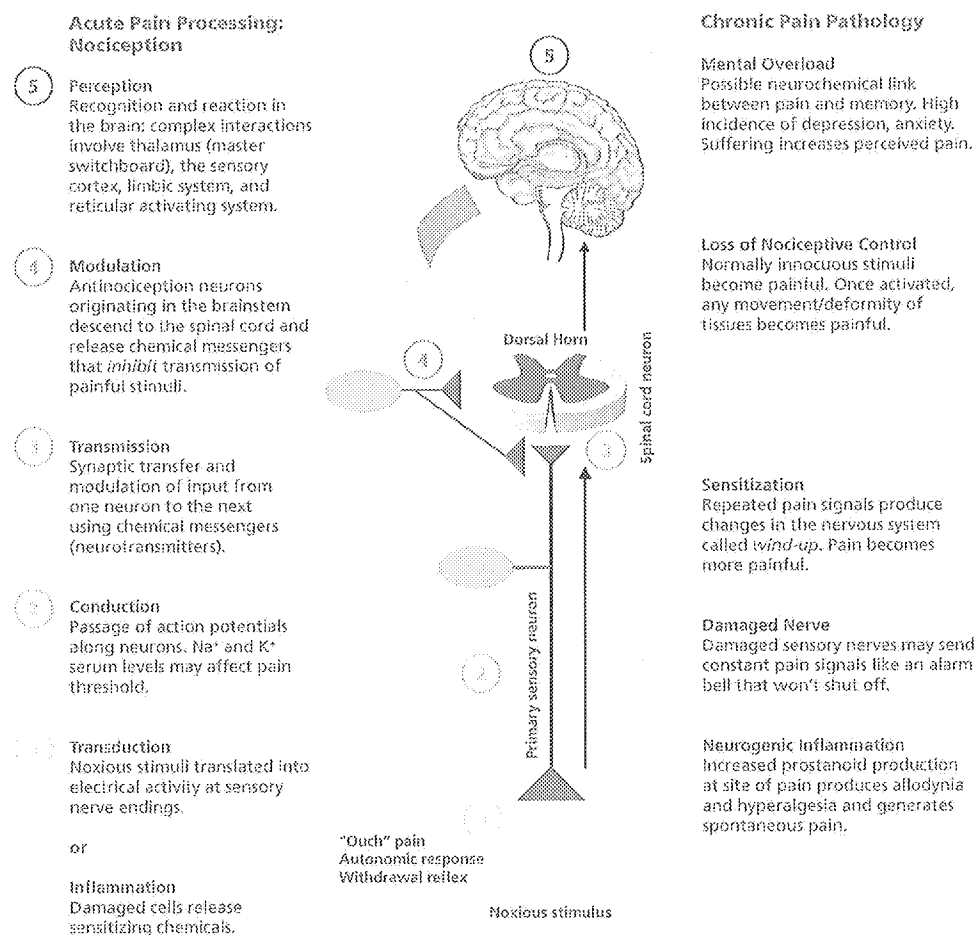
action potentials by primary afferent receptive elements express numerous modulate their mechanical, thermal, or chemical, tissue damage results in the release of a number of chemical and protein mediators from ruptured cells. Prostaglandins, histamine, serotonin, cytokines, adenosine triphosphate (ATP), hydrogen ions, and bradykinin, among others, either activate nociceptors to generate efferent nerve impulses or sensitize nociceptors beyond their normal resting state by lowering activation thresholds and thus increasing their excitability.<sup>17</sup> For a more complete description of this process, see *Module 2*.

Figure 4. Transmission of Noxious Stimulus From the Periphery to the Central Nervous System (Nociception)



need printout for nociceptors (also on this page) ✓ ok  
[see edits on glossary]

Figure 5: Comparison Between Acute and Chronic Pain Processes



Source: Whitten CE et al. *Permanente J.* 2005;9:10.<sup>17</sup>

Neural **transmission** is the process by which nerve signals generated in the periphery involve neurons and are transmitted to the spinal cord and brain (Figure 6).<sup>17, 18</sup> This involves synaptic modulation between neurons (neurotransmitters). Nociceptors are either unmyelinated **C-fiber** or thin myelinated **A-delta** fibers. The primary afferent neurons transfer the nociceptive signals to dorsal horn neurons at synapses mediated by excitatory neurotransmitters.<sup>2, 19</sup> The dorsal horn also includes spinal interneurons, which release inhibitory neurotransmitters and endogenous opioids to blunt local nociceptive transmission both presynaptically and postsynaptically.<sup>2</sup> From the dorsal horn, signals are then relayed along central ascending tracts to the thalamus, hypothalamus, mesencephalon, reticular formation, and cerebral cortex.<sup>2</sup> See *Module 2* for a more complete review of the neuropharmacology.

Notes:

## Nociceptive Pain

*wrong definition*

**Nociceptive pain** refers to the transient responses of nociceptors to noxious

**neuropathic pain**—Pain resulting from damage to the nervous system that interferes with normal pain signal processing. Neuropathic pain is perceived in various ways, including tingling, numbness, stabbing, and shooting sensations.

ceptive pain may become recurrent or ongoing noxious (osteoarthritis).<sup>23</sup> Nociceptive pain is spontaneous pain and hypersensitivity to pain.<sup>2</sup> Tissue injury and inflammation activate nociceptive terminals as damaged

cells release their contents and inflammatory cells are recruited to the site of injury to produce **cytokines, chemokines, and growth factors**.<sup>2</sup> The

effluent of damaged cells activates the nociceptors, making them hypersensitive to future injury. The inflammatory response associated with inflammation

**cytokine**—Generic term for proteins that act as mediators in immune response via G-protein-coupled receptors. Some cytokines associated with pain include interleukins and tumor necrosis factor.

ectly becomes a major factor in pain. Cytokines reduce

pain thresholds and increases the responsiveness of peripheral nociceptors.<sup>24</sup>

Nociceptive pain can be further categorized as **somatic** (rooted in the skin or deep tissues)

somatic pain and low back pain. Visceral pain is poorly localized relative to somatic pain.

**somatic pain**—Pain resulting from activation of nociceptors in the cutaneous (skin) or deep tissues (muscles, tendons, bones). Somatic pain is typically dull or aching but well localized.

Common examples of somatic pain include rheumatoid arthritis (RA), chronic pancreatitis.<sup>26</sup> Visceral pain is poorly localized relative to somatic pain and is sparsely innervated relative to a given visceral

element may arise in several spinal segments and can involve both ipsilateral and contralateral spinal divisions.<sup>30</sup> This more diffuse innervation may explain the difficulty in localizing visceral pain, as well as the relative insensitivity of visceral tissue to focal tissue damage.<sup>28</sup> Spinal neurons that receive visceral afferents also receive convergent input from cutaneous or deeper structures, resulting in referred pain.<sup>29, 31</sup> Somatic structures generally conduct noxious stimuli through A $\delta$  fibers and C fibers, whereas the viscera must encode both innocuous and noxious stimuli through A $\delta$  fibers and C fibers.<sup>28</sup>

Notes:

Continued inappropriate discharge by damaged nerves can trigger

**central sensitization**—activity-dependent plasticity in the central nervous system that leads to allodynia and hyperalgesia.<sup>24</sup> Central sensitization can be driven and maintained via intact afferent neurons.<sup>41</sup>

central sensitization—  
Increased sensitivity of spinal neurons due to persistent or large-scale release of glutamate can overload NMDA (N-methyl-D-aspartate) receptors that result in long-term sensitization.

ed and maintained when low-threshold nociceptive nonpainful sensations, transmit pain after peripheral nerve injury and subsequent reorganization of sensory pathways may also play a significant role.<sup>23, 43, 44</sup>

**Disinhibition** modulating spinal transmission of nociceptive input may lead to the promotion of A $\beta$  fiber-mediated pain.<sup>23</sup> A variety of mechanisms may also contribute to loss of pre- and postsynaptic **GABAergic** inhibition of the spinal cord.<sup>23</sup>

GABAergic—GABA ( $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid) is a neurotransmitter located in both pre- and postsynaptic neurons and is responsible for the conduction of several synaptic signals. In pain, it is an inhibitory neurotransmitter in the descending bulbospinal inhibitory interneurons located in the central nervous system.

**Functional Pain**

**Functional pain**

allodynia and hyperalgesia peripheral abnormality although it can be

some cases, amplification of responses is not limited to pain stimuli, suggesting widespread increases in the sensitivity of sensory systems.<sup>2</sup> Examples of functional pain include<sup>2</sup>:

- Fibromyalgia
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Noncardiac chest pain
- Tension-type headache

## Assessment of Chronic Pain

Reliable assessment of pain levels and functional consequences is important for both clinical trials and effective pain management in clinical practice.<sup>45</sup> In both settings, it is essential to measure the patient's baseline pain and how the pain changes over time in response to treatment, disease changes, and other variables. Without assessment and reassessment, it is exceedingly difficult to determine if the patient is experiencing adequate analgesia.

Notes:

Continued inappropriate discharge by damaged nerves can trigger central sensitization—activity-dependent plasticity in the central nervous system that can manifest as allodynia and hyperalgesia.<sup>24</sup> Central sensitization can contribute to neuropathic pain<sup>24</sup> and can be driven and maintained via peripheral sensitization of intact afferent neurons.<sup>41</sup>

Neuropathic pain may be elicited and maintained when low-threshold A $\beta$  fibers, which normally mediate nonpainful sensations, transmit pain-related signals following peripheral nerve injury.<sup>23, 42</sup> Apoptosis of primary sensory and dorsal horn neurons after peripheral nerve injury and subsequent reorganization of sensory pathways may also play a significant role.<sup>23, 43, 44</sup>

Disinhibition modulating spinal transmission of nociceptive input may lead to mediated pain.<sup>23</sup> A variety of mechanisms may and postsynaptic GABAergic inhibition of the

disinhibition—Reduction of synaptic inhibition

### Functional Pain

Functional pain refers to states in which central sensitization—induced allodynia and hyperalgesia—occurs in the absence of neurologic deficits or peripheral abnormalities.<sup>2</sup> Often the pain is widespread, as in fibromyalgia, although it can be more localized as observed in irritable bowel syndrome.<sup>2</sup> In some cases, amplification of responses is not limited to pain stimuli, suggesting widespread increases in the sensitivity of sensory systems.<sup>2</sup> Examples of functional pain include<sup>2</sup>:

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## Assessment of Chronic Pain

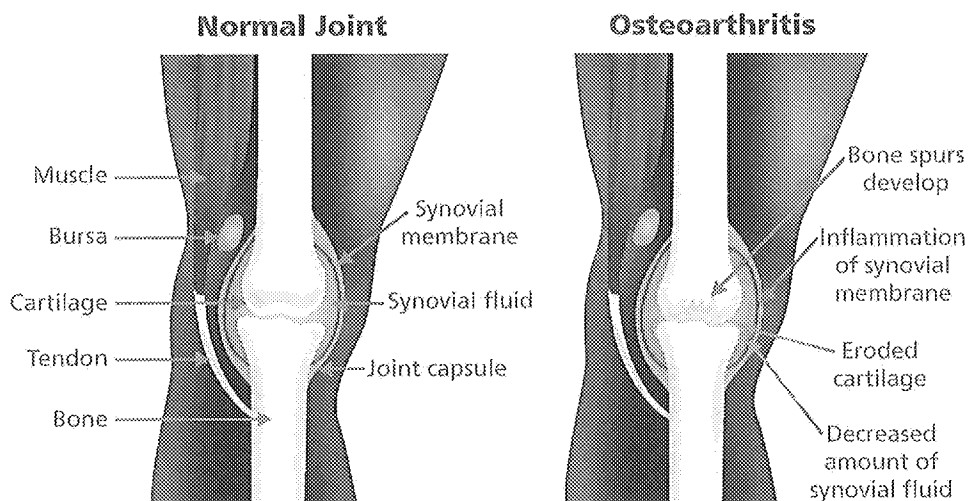
Reliable assessment of pain levels and functional consequences is important for both clinical trials and effective pain management in clinical practice.<sup>45</sup> In both settings, it is essential to measure the patient's baseline pain and how the pain changes over time in response to treatment, disease changes, and other variables. Without assessment and reassessment, it is exceedingly difficult to determine if the patient is experiencing adequate analgesia.

Notes:

Temporary loss of nerve transmission inhibition

due to drug or disease.

Figure 12. Primary Osteoarthritis of the Knee



Source: Mayo Foundation for Education and Research.

Lifestyle modification (such as weight loss and exercise), physical therapy, and over-the-counter analgesics are treatment mainstays.<sup>70</sup> According to the **ACR Guidelines**, acetaminophen is the recommended initial pharmacologic approach, with oral nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) therapy recommended if pain relief with acetaminophen is insufficient.<sup>70</sup> Topical NSAIDs may be recommended as an alternative to oral therapy, particularly in patients at high risk for NSAID-related gastrointestinal or cardiovascular serious adverse events. Tramadol and opioid treatment are recommended for patients with moderate to severe pain in whom NSAIDs are contraindicated or for whom previous oral therapy was inadequate.<sup>70</sup>

Glucosamine/chondroitin complex supplements and hyaluronic acid injections have shown efficacy in some patients.<sup>75, 76</sup> Ultimately, if pain becomes debilitating, elective joint replacement surgery may be recommended.<sup>70</sup> For a detailed overview of treatment practices and guidelines for OA, see **Module 6** in the PENNSAID Advanced Training Series.

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### Insights and Implications

Although they are generally well tolerated when prescribed and used appropriately, acetaminophen, oral NSAIDs, and opioid analgesics are associated with serious risks. It is therefore important for healthcare professionals to properly assess patients prior to initiating therapy and to take appropriate measures to ensure the benefit of therapy outweighs the potential risk (see *Modules 5 and 6* for discussion of risk management strategies). Topical NSAIDs have shown benefit in pain relief for OA, with lower systemic concentrations, and are theoretically associated with reduced risk of serious



## Peripheral Neuropathy

### Etiology, Clinical Presentation, and Epidemiology

Chronic neuropathic pain arises from a diverse class of neuropathologies characterized by physical damage to the nervous system and surrounding/supporting structures.<sup>107</sup> Commonly encountered neuropathic pain states include<sup>2, 32, 33:</sup>

- Nerve compression
- Multiple sclerosis
- HIV/AIDS
- Alcoholism
- Amputation
- Shingles

**Post-herpetic neuralgia** is characterized by an idiopathic reactivation of

post-herpetic neuralgia—Pain in the area where a shingles infection (caused by the Varicella zoster virus) once occurred. The pain may last for months or years.

ant damage to nerve fibers.<sup>108</sup> condition in which prolonged y elevated blood glucose and low ainful disorder is complicated by s, the latter leading to focal

capillary damage and concomitant hypoxia and nutrient deprivation.<sup>110</sup>

**Trigeminal neuralgia** arises from damage to one or both trigeminal nerves.

Trigeminal neuralgia—????

of intense hyperalgesic and frequently, scalp, forehead, teeth, or jaw geminal neuralgia is typically after common in women.<sup>111</sup> Cold wind, ig, and talking can exacerbate the

clinical manifestations of trigeminal neuralgia.<sup>112</sup> Patients additionally report sensations of temporary numbness, tingling, and pricking (paresthesias); sensitivity to touch; and muscle weakness.<sup>112</sup>

Excruciating episodic pain in the area of the trigeminal nerve, often ~~associated~~ precipitated by stimulation of well-defined trigger points.

Notes:

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