



Neuropathic Pain and Pain Treatments – Focus on Over the Counter Agents

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Overview

- Impact of neuropathic pain
- Taxonomy of pain
- Characteristics and mechanisms of neuropathic pain
- Tools to manage neuropathic pain with a focus on over the counter agents

Experiences With Pain

- >50% of Americans live with chronic or recurrent pain
- 20% suffer chronic pain (ongoing pain ≥ 3 months). Over 60 million Americans
- Many of the chronic pain conditions started with an acute injury or surgery.
- More than 300 million prescriptions for analgesics (125 million for Vicodin) are written each year for pain.
- #1 reason people out of work
- Indirect/direct medical expenses \$200B



Suffering

Gureje O. et al. JAMA 1998;280:147-151
Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2002;51:948-50



Experiences with pain. ABC News/USA Today/Stanford University Medical Center poll.

Pain – definition

“An unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage, or described in terms of such damage”



IASP 1979

Types of Pain

- Nociceptive
 - Activation of nociceptors in cutaneous and deep musculoskeletal tissues.
 - Accurately localize pain to the site of pathology; it may be felt in superficial cutaneous or deeper musculoskeletal structures
- Visceral
 - Poorly localized.
 - Often associated with nausea, vomiting, and diaphoresis.
 - Ischemia, infiltration, compression, distention, and torsion or stretching of thoracic, abdominal, and pelvic viscera.
- Neuropathic

Neuropathic Pain

- IASP Definition of Neuropathic Pain: “Pain initiated or caused by a primary lesion or dysfunction in the nervous system.”
- Pain resulting from lesions of the peripheral nerves has sometimes been termed deafferentation pain.
- Pain resulting from injury to the spinal cord or brain, especially when complicating cerebrovascular, demyelinating, or traumatic CNS injury is involved, is usually termed central pain.

Neuropathic Pain - Deleterious Effects

- Negative emotions
 - Depression
 - Anxiety
- Poor Sleep
- Decreased quality of life
- Weight loss



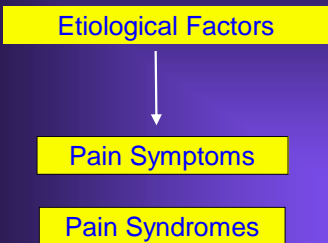
Estimated Prevalence of Neuropathic Pain in the US*

Condition	Number of Cases
Painful diabetic neuropathy	600,000
Postherpetic neuralgia	500,000
Cancer-associated	200,000
Spinal cord injury	120,000
Causalgia and reflex sympathetic dystrophy (CRPS)	100,000
Multiple sclerosis	50,000
Phantom pain	50,000
Poststroke	30,000
HIV-associated	15,000
Trigeminal neuralgia (tic douloureux)	100,000
Low-back pain-associated	2,100,000
Total (excluding back pain)	1,775,000
Total (including back pain)	3,865,000

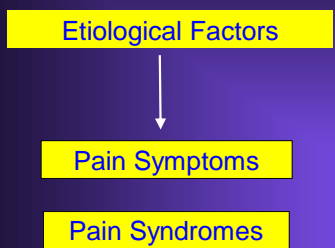
Adapted from Bennett GJ. *Hosp Pract.* October 15, 1998.
*Based on population of 270 million.

How we have thought about pain

Approaches to Understanding and Treating Pain



Approaches to Understanding and Treating Pain



Post Herpetic Neuralgia

Approaches to Understanding and Treating Pain

Etiological Factors

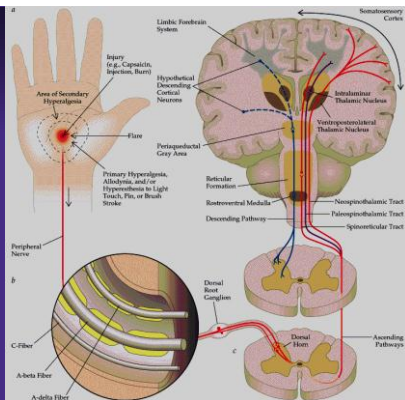
Pain Mechanisms

Pain Symptoms

Pain Syndromes

Pain – Where does it all start and why is it bad for our patients?

Neuroanatomy of Pain Pathways



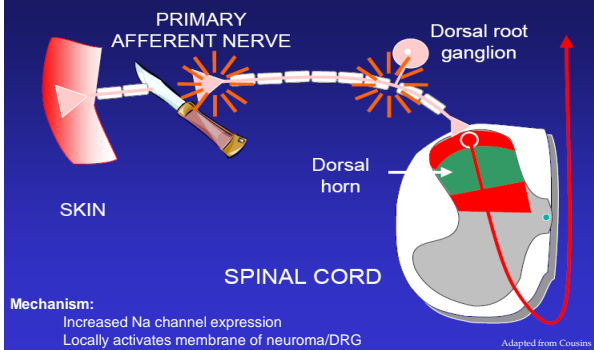
Scientific American Medicine

Peripheral vs Central Mechanisms of Neuropathic Pain: Experimental Effects

Peripheral Effects	Central Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ectopic and spontaneous discharge Nonsynaptic conduction Alterations in ion channel expression Collateral sprouting of primary afferent neurons Sprouting of sympathetic neurons in dorsal root ganglion Nociceptor sensitization Neurogenic inflammation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central sensitization Spinal reorganization Cortical reorganization Changes in inhibitory pathways Changes in glial cell functioning

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Ectopic activity in primary afferents following injury



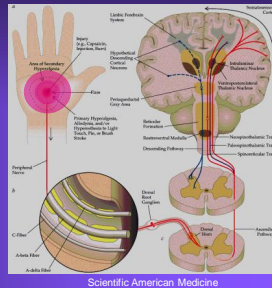
Central Mechanisms of Neuropathic Pain

Peripheral vs Central Mechanisms of Neuropathic Pain: Experimental Effects

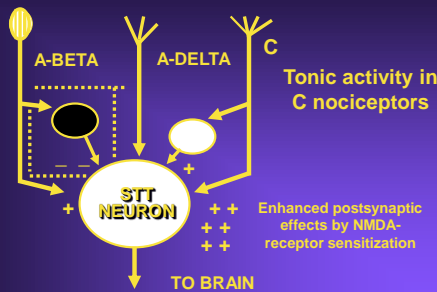
Peripheral Effects	Central Effects
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Central Sensitization (Secondary Hyperalgesia)

- Repeated impulse activity in C nociceptive neurons produces sensitization of spinothalamic tract neurons over time
- Previously subthreshold inputs reach threshold and initiate action potential (allodynia)
- Increases in spontaneous activity
- Spinal and supraspinal mechanisms
- Enlargement of the area in periphery where stimulus will activate neurons

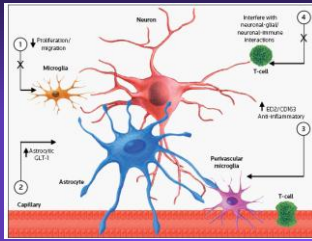


Loss of Inhibitory Interneuron Function



Glial Cells and Neuropathic Pain

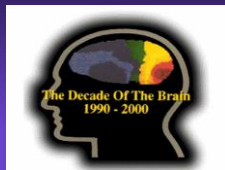
- Parenchymal (resident) microglia, perivascular microglia, astrocytes and oligodendrocytes, constitute > 70% of the total cell population in the brain and spinal cord
- Key neuromodulatory, neurotrophic and neuroimmune elements in the CNS.



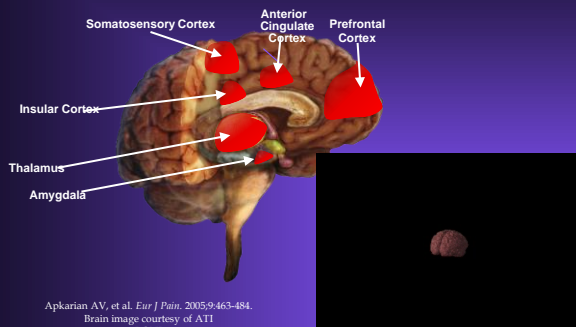
Current Opinion in Investigational Drugs 2008 9(7):726-734

Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI)

A method of observing brain activation



Brain Regions Involved in Pain Perception "Pain Matrix"



Apkarian AV, et al. *Eur J Pain*. 2005;9:463-484.
Brain image courtesy of ATI

Right arm amputation below elbow

Lip pursing and phantom limb pain (PLP):

1. Reprinted with permission from M. Lotze, MD, Inst of Medical Psychology & Behavioral Neurobiology, Univ. of Tübingen, Germany, Lotze M, et al. *Brain*. 2001;124(pt 11):2268-2277.

patients with PLP
patients without PLP
healthy controls

Cortical Reorganization in Complex Regional Pain Syndrome

- Participants
 - 12 upper limb CRPS
- Methods
 - Non-painful air puffs to digit 1 and 5 and lower lip
 - Cortical responses recorded with MEG
- Results
 - Shrinkage of hand representation contralateral to affected side
 - Reorganization correlated with amount of pain and mechanical hyperalgesia

Maihofner, C. *Neurology*. 2003; 61: 1707-1715

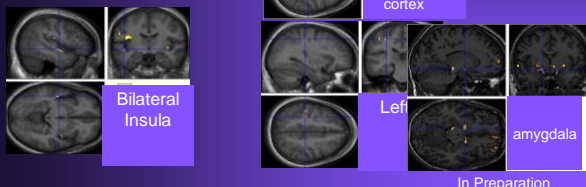
Temporomandibular (TMD) Pain Alters Gray Matter in the Brain

- 15 women with TMD pain
- 15 age/gender matched controls

Younger JW, Shen Y, Goddard G, Mackey S. *PAIN*

Neuropathic Pain Associated with Gray Matter Reductions

- Reductions noted in:
 - Mid-posterior Cingulate
 - S2
 - Posterior Insula
 - Left S1



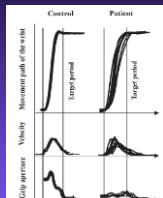
Resting State Brain Networks – Abnormalities in Neuropathic Pain

- No significant differences between groups in visual or default-mode networks.
- CRPS patients had significantly more connectivity in “salience” network (Seeley, 2007)
 - Dorsal ACC and insula (salience network) but ALSO cerebellum, and S1



Changes in CNS Motor Systems in CRPS

- 12 CRPS patients, 12 healthy controls
- Kinematic analysis during target reaching and grasping
- CRPS patients showed prolonged target phase
- fMRI and finger tapping task
- CRPS patients showed reorganization of central motor circuits
 - Increased activity of primary motor and SMA
 - Regressed against tapping performance



Mahhofer, et al., Brain (2007), 130, 2

Therapeutic Approaches to Neuropathic Pain

Chronic pain management

- Multidisciplinary treatment
 - Pharmacologic
 - Physical Therapy

Integration

Neuropathic Pain Management – *Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Rehab*

- Setting goal oriented paced activities
- Aerobic exercises, weight loss
- Re-education (e.g. body mechanics, back school, ergonomics)
- Muscle group strengthening (e.g. flexion, extension, range motion)
- Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation

Neuropathic Pain Management – Psychological and Behavioral Therapy

- Positive reinforcement for healthy behavior
- Time contingent instead of pain contingent pain management
- Spousal involvement
- Modification of:
 - Meaning of pain and disability
 - Expectations regarding control of pain
 - Catastrophizing
- Respondent treatment
 - Hypnosis
 - Visualization
 - Relaxation
 - Biofeedback

Chronic Pain Management Procedural Treatments

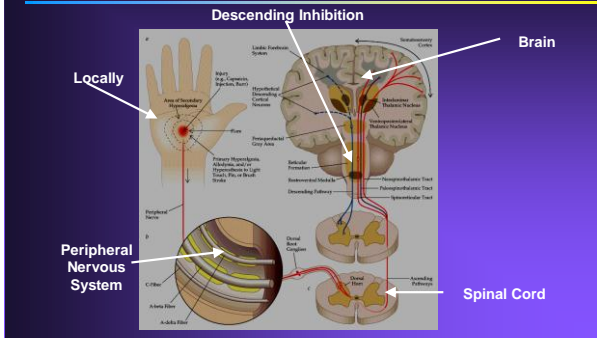
- Trigger point injections (local/Botox)
- Nerve blockade
 - Epidural steroids
 - Medial branch blocks/facet injections/RF rhizotomy
 - Sympathetic blockade
 - Peripheral nerve blockade
 - Neurolytic blockade – chemical ablation
- Spinal drug delivery systems
- Spinal cord stimulation



Pharmacologic Management of Neuropathic Pain

Antidepressants	Amitriptyline, imipramine, desipramine, nortriptyline, duloxetine, venlafaxine, SSRIs
Anticonvulsants	Carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine, gabapentin, lamotrigine, phenytoin, topiramate, levetiracetam, pregabalin
Antiarrhythmics	Mexiletine
Topical formulations	Capsaicin, lidocaine, aspirin
Analgesics	NSAIDs, Cox inhibitors, tramadol, opiates
Others	Levodopa, ketamine, dextromethorphan

Pharmacologic Approach to Treatment



Importance of Randomized Clinical Trials

- Patient with trigeminal post-herpetic neuralgia treated with:
 - Alcohol injection into supra-orbital nerve
 - Division of the sensory root
 - Alcohol injection into trigeminal ganglion
 - Stellate ganglion block
 - Electroconvulsive therapy
 - Extirpation of contralateral then ipsilateral sensory cortex
 - Prefrontal lobotomy

Sugar and Bacy, Arch. Neurol Psychiatry, 1951;61:131-145.

Over the Counter Agents for Neuropathic Pain

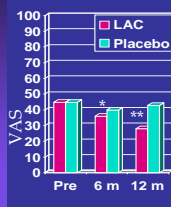
Acetyl-L-Carnitine and Neuropathies

- Diabetic peripheral neuropathy
- Chemotherapy-induced neuropathy
- HIV neuropathy
- In mitochondria ensures availability of acetyl-co-A for elimination of toxic metabolites,
 - Involved in acetylation of proteins- tubulin- role in neuronal protection;
 - Enhances neuronal NGF response and possibly regulation of gene expression



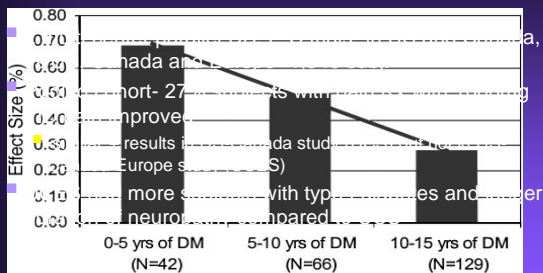
Acetyl-L-Carnitine in Diabetic Neuropathy

- Double-blind placebo-controlled RCT in 333 subjects, 1 yr followup
- 1 gm IM for 10 d, 2 gm orally for 355 d
- Nerve conduction velocity (NCV; motor and sensory) and amplitude primary outcome measure, pain secondary
- 12 month NCV increased in active group in all nerves, decrease or no change in placebo; 6 month similar trend
- 199 pts had pain at baseline. 39% decrease at 12 month



De Grandis and Minardi. Drugs R&D 2002; 3:223

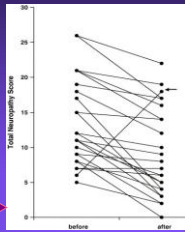
ALC and Diabetic Neuropathy



Sima et al, Diabetes Care 2005;28:89

ALC in other NP pain states

- HIV-associated neuropathy:
 - Open label studies 1500 mg x2/d for up to 33 m improvement in neuropathy (?pain) in 76%
 - Small, 3 wk study- 0.5-1 g iv/im daily, pain intensity decreased in 10, no change in 5, 1 worse
- Chemotherapy-induced neuropathy
 - Open label 8 wk trial in 25 pt, total neuropathy score improved in 23 pt. symptoms and neurophys measures



Hart AM et al. AIDS 2004;18:1549; Scarpini E et al. J Peripher Nerv Syst 1997;2:250; Bianchi et al. Eur J Cancer 2005; 41:1746

Vitamin E for Prevention of Cisplatin Neurotoxicity

- Neurotoxicity is the major dose-limiting toxicity for cisplatin
- Peripheral sensory polyneuropathy, ototoxicity, focal encephalopathy
 - Signs and symptoms often not reversible
 - Mechanism of toxicity not fully understood
 - Mechanisms: free radical damage to nerves; possible vitamin E depletion

J Clin Oncol 2003;21:927-931

Vitamin E for Prevention of Cisplatin Neurotoxicity

- Medication: Vitamin E as alpha-tocopherol
- Dose: 300 mg (447 IU)/day
- Protocol: Vitamin E administered before cisplatin therapy and continued for 3 months after cessation of cisplatin treatment
- Patients were randomized to receive vitamin E plus cisplatin (Group 1) or cisplatin alone (Group 2)
- Median time between start of vitamin E and cisplatin was 4 days (range, 1 to 8 days)

J Clin Oncol 2003;21:927-931

Vitamin E for Prevention of Cisplatin Neurotoxicity

- 27 patients with solid tumors (15 lung; 3 ovarian; 2 rhinopharinx, 2 urethral; and 1 each gastric, testicular, esophageal, ethmoidal, tongue) completed six cycles of cisplatin therapy
 - Neurotoxicity: Group 1 was 30.7% vs. 85.7% in Group 2
 - Severity of neurotoxicity was 79% less in Group 1 compared to Group 2
 - Overall there was a 64% decreased risk in developing neurotoxicity with Vitamin E
- No differences between groups in response to cisplatin treatment were noted (eg, tumor weight inhibition, tumor growth delay, life span)

J Clin Oncol 2003;21:927-931

Alpha-Lipoic Acid (ALA)

- Improves nerve blood flow, distal nerve conduction and increases endoneurial glucose uptake and energy metabolism
- Has also been used to reduce oxidative damage
- Approved in Germany for diabetic neuropathy
- S/E mild- headache, skin rash, stomach upset at high doses (600 mg/d) and possible hypoglycemia

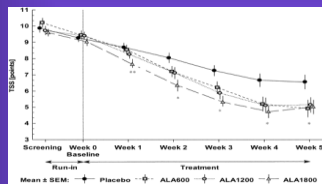


\$12.95/60 cap

Halat CE & Dennedy KM
J Am Board Fam Pract 2003;16:47-57

Alpha-Lipoic acid and neuropathy

- Meta-analysis of 4 PCRT in diabetic N, n=1,258
- 600 mg ALA IV for 3 wk
- Improvement in symptom score starting day 8 of Rx
- Smaller studies- similar symptomatic improvement
- Normalizes plasma nitrates and nitrites- a surrogate for NO production, increased NO= better neuronal circulation



Ziegler et al. Diabet Med 2004;21:114

ALA for Treatment of Oxaliplatin-Induced Polyneuropathy

- Dose-limiting toxicity of oxaliplatin is cumulative peripheral sensory neuropathy (PNP)
- Peripheral neuropathic pain symptoms:
 - Paresthesias with or without functional impairment of the extremities
- Develop in 10-18% of patients when a cumulative dose of about 800 mg/m² is reached

J Clin Oncol 2002;20:3359-3361

ALA for Treatment of Oxaliplatin-Induced Polyneuropathy

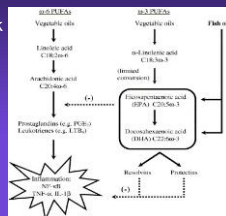
- 15 patients with oxaliplatin –induced cumulative PNP
- Treatment:
 - Alpha-lipoic acid 600 mg I.V. weekly for 3-5 weeks
 - Followed by 600 mg orally three times daily until full recovery or for a maximum of 6 months
- 8 of 15 patients (53%) experienced reduction in severity of symptoms
 - Median response time: 4 weeks (range 3-12 wks)
 - Median treatment duration: 2 months (range 1-4 months)

J Clin Oncol 2002;20:3359-3361

Essential fatty acids



- Omega-6 FA: gamma-linolenic acid
 - Evening primrose oil, borage and black currant, Efamol oil
 - 2 RCTs in diabetic neuropathy
- Omega-3 FA: eicosapentaenoic and docosahexaenoic acid- Fish oil
 - Reduced pain in RA, inflammatory bowel disease, dysmenorrhea, and musculoskeletal injury



Coste et al. Cellular and Molecular Biology™ 2004;50:845
Goldberg R.J, Katz J. Pain 2007;129:210

Stanford Pain Management Center

- Major tertiary comprehensive Pain Management Center
- Started in 1989.
- Over 10,000 patient visits (FY08)
- 18 Clinical Pain Faculty
 - Anesthesiology



Common Pain Conditions We Treat

- Neuropathic pain
 - Post traumatic, post surgical
 - Post-herpetic neuralgia
 - Complex regional pain syndrome/RSD
 - Diabetic neuropathy
- Back and neck pain
- Headache
- Abdominal and pelvic pain
- Cancer pain
- Work related



Unique Aspects of Stanford Pain Center



- True comprehensive interdisciplinary clinical program with national and international reputation
- State of the art therapies with proven outcomes
- Only in patient program in Western US (SCIPP)
- Collaborative translational research with world class resources
- Integration of research programs with clinical care – part of the culture



Summary

- Neuropathic pain is a tremendous burden on the individual and society.
- Neuropathic pain represents a complex mixture of peripheral and central mechanisms.
- Multidisciplinary treatment approaches are the most effective.
- A number of over the counter agents have demonstrated efficacy in neuropathic pain.
- Look for the Institute of Medicine report on Pain on June 29th!!!
