



Associazione Italiana
Radioterapia Oncologica
Gruppo Interregionale
Lazio/Abruzzo/Molise



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore

Le terapie di supporto in Radioterapia: **verso una Guida Pratica**

Linee Guida nelle Terapie di Supporto nel Paziente Anziano

Giuseppe Colloca MD, PhD

GemelliART

Fondazione Policlinico A Gemelli

Rome

[NCCN Guidelines®](#)

[NCCN Compendia](#)

[NCCN Templates®](#)

[Educational Events & Programs](#)

[Subscriptions & Products](#)

[Clinical & Business Resources](#)

[NCCN Global](#)

[NCCN Oncology Research Program](#)

[Patient Resources](#)

[NCCN Guidelines®](#)

[About The NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology \(NCCN Guidelines®\)](#)

[Development and Update of the NCCN Guidelines](#)

[Recent Updates to NCCN Guidelines®](#)

[NCCN Guidelines Panels - Meeting Schedule](#)

[NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus](#)

[NCCN Categories of Preference](#)

[NCCN Guidelines® Steering Committee](#)

[Transparency: Process and Recommendations](#)

[Submission Request to the NCCN Guidelines Panels](#)

[NCCN Guidelines® & Clinical Resources](#)

[NCCN Guidelines®](#)

NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®) are posted with the latest update date and version number.

The NCCN Guidelines are copyrighted by the NCCN. All rights reserved. NCCN Guidelines and illustrations (including algorithms) may not be reproduced in any form for any purpose without the express written permission of the NCCN. [Permissions Requests Section](#).

[Click here to view the NCCN Guidelines Panel Members individual disclosures](#)

[NCCN Guidelines for Treatment of Cancer by Site](#)

[NCCN Guidelines for Detection, Prevention, & Risk Reduction](#)

[NCCN Guidelines for Supportive Care](#)

[NCCN Guidelines for Age Related Recommendations](#)

[NCCN Guidelines for Patients](#)

The NCCN guidelines are FREE! Register for a free account, then click on the cancer types below to display a drop down of options. If you are still having an issue, please contact us.

Quick Links

[NCCN Guidelines® - FREE](#)

[NCCN Compendium®](#)

[NCCN Biomarkers Compendium®](#)

[NCCN Imaging AUC™](#)

[NCCN Radiation Therapy](#)

[Compendium™](#)

[NCCN Templates®](#)

[Educational Events](#)

[CME/CE Programs](#)

[NCCN Guidelines for Patients®](#)

NCCN GUIDELINES FOR SUPPORTIVE CARE

[Adult Cancer Pain](#)

[Antiemesis](#)

[Cancer- and Chemotherapy-Induced Anemia](#)

[Cancer-Associated Venous Thromboembolic Disease](#)

[Cancer-Related Fatigue](#)

[Distress Management](#)

[Myeloid Growth Factors](#)

[Palliative Care](#)

[Prevention and Treatment of Cancer-Related Infections](#)


[Smoking Cessation](#)

[Survivorship](#)

NCCN GUIDELINES FOR AGE RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

[Adolescent and Young Adult \(AYA\) Oncology](#)

Older Adult Oncology

 **NCCN Guidelines**



National
Comprehensive
Cancer
Network®

NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®)

Adult Cancer Pain

Version 2.2017 — May 10, 2017

NCCN.org

Continue

*Robert A. Swarm, MD/Chair ϕ Σ
Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-
Jewish Hospital and Washington
University School of Medicine

Doralina L. Anghelescu, MD ϕ Σ
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital/
The University of Tennessee
Health Science Center

Justine Yang Bruce, MD \dagger
University of Wisconsin
Carbone Cancer Center

Sorin Buga, MD Σ
City of Hope
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Marcin Chwistek, MD Σ ρ
Fox Chase Cancer Center

Charles Cleeland, PhD θ Σ
The University of Texas
MD Anderson Cancer Center

*David Craig, PharmD Σ
Moffitt Cancer Center

Oscar A. deLeon-Casasola, MD ϕ Σ
Roswell Park Cancer Institute

June G. Eilers, PhD, APRN #
Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

Ellin Gafford, MD ρ Σ
The Ohio State University Comprehensive
Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital
and Solove Research Institute

NCCN

Karin G. Hoffmann, RN, CCM
Lisa A. Gurski, PhD
Jillian Scavone, PhD

[NCCN Guidelines Panel Disclosures](#)

Arif H. Kamal, MD, MBA, MHS \dagger Σ
Duke Cancer Institute

Mihir M. Kamdar, MD ρ Σ
Massachusetts General
Hospital Cancer Center

Susan LeGrand, MD \dagger
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center/
University Hospitals Seidman Cancer
Center and Cleveland Clinic Taussig
Cancer Institute

Sean Mackey, MD, PhD ϕ Σ
Stanford Cancer Institute

M. Rachel McDowell, MSN, ACNP-BC # \dagger
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Natalie Moryl, MD ρ Σ
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Lisle M. Nabell, MD \ddagger \dagger
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Suzanne Nesbit, PharmD, BCPS Σ Σ
The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive
Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins

*Judith A. Paice, PhD, RN # Σ
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer
Center of Northwestern University

Andrew Putnam, MD Σ
Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital

Michael W. Rabow, MD ρ Σ
UCSF Helen Diller Family
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Elizabeth Rickerson, MD ϕ Σ
Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center
Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center

Eric Roeland, MD \dagger Σ
UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Jill Sindt, MD Σ ϕ
Huntsman Cancer Institute
at the University of Utah

Karen L. Syrjala, PhD θ Σ
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center/
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance

Susan G. Urba, MD \dagger Σ
University of Michigan
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Jeanie M. Youngwerth, MD ρ Σ
University of Colorado Cancer Center

ϕ Anesthesiology
 Σ Supportive care including palliative, pain
management, pastoral care, and oncology social work
 \dagger Medical oncology
 ρ Internal medicine
 θ Psychiatry, psychology, including health behavior
Nursing
 \S Radiotherapy/Radiation oncology
 Σ Pharmacology
 Ψ Neurology/neuro-oncology
 \ddagger Hematology/Hematology oncology
* Discussion section writing committee

Continue



National
Comprehensive
Cancer
Network®

NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®)

Antiemesis

Version 2.2017 — March 28, 2017

NCCN.org

NCCN Guidelines for Patients® available at www.nccn.org/patients

Continue



National
Comprehensive
Cancer
Network®

NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®)

Older Adult Oncology

Version 2.2017 — May 1, 2017

NCCN.org

Continue

MASCC Guidelines

©MASCC, Multinational Association for Supportive Care in Cancer[™] • All rights reserved worldwide.



[Antiemetic Guidelines](#)

The MASCC/ESMO Antiemetic Guidelines have been updated as of March, 2016. The revised guidelines, published in *Annals of Oncology* (vol 27;suppl 5:v119-v133, 2016) are based on the Copenhagen Consensus Conference on Antiemetic Therapy, June 2015, and have been endorsed by both MASCC and ESMO. See the [MASCC/ESMO Antiemetic Guidelines](#) for the full text of the Guidelines, supporting Consensus Recommendation Papers, and the updated Guideline Slide Set.



[Mucositis Guidelines](#)

A major effort of the Mucositis Study Group of MASCC/ISOO has been a comprehensive review of the literature related to mucositis and the development of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. The first set of MASCC/ISOO Mucositis Guidelines was published in the journal *Cancer* in 2004. The first update of these guidelines was described in publications in 2006 and 2007. The most recent update is now available here at the MASCC website: Mucositis Guidelines. This includes a summary paper published in *Cancer* 2014 and available via open access. In addition, a set of publications in *Supportive Care in*

MASCC/ESMO ANTIEMETIC GUIDELINE 2016



Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer

Organizing and Overall Meeting Chairs:

Matti Aapro, MD

Richard J. Gralla, MD

Jørn Herrstedt, MD, DMSci

Alex Molassiotis, RN, PhD

Fausto Roila, MD

© Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer™ All rights reserved worldwide.

Sign in

How can we help you ?

SEARCH

About Us

Membership

Guidelines

Conferences

Career Development

Research

Patients

Policy

OncologyPRO

ESMO / GUIDELINES / Supportive and Palliative Care

Guidelines News

Breast Cancer

Cancers of Unknown
Primary Site

Endocrine and
Neuroendocrine Cancers

Gastrointestinal Cancers

Genitourinary Cancers

Gynaecological Cancers

ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines: Supportive and Palliative Care



The ESMO **Clinical Practice Guidelines** (CPG) are intended to provide the user with a set of recommendations for the best standards of cancer care, based on the findings of **evidence-based medicine**.

Latest enhanced and revised set of guidelines

Supportive and palliative care are areas of **high importance in oncology** and ESMO published Clinical Practice Guidelines on the management of a variety of issues: Management of infusion reactions to systemic anticancer therapy, Management of toxicities from immunotherapy, Management of febrile neutropaenia, MASCC and ESMO consensus guidelines for the prevention of chemotherapy and radiotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, Treatment of dyspnoea in advanced cancer patients, Central venous access in oncology, Management of oral and gastrointestinal mucosal injury, Management of refractory symptoms at the end of life and the use of palliative sedation, Advanced care

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Olanzapine for the Prevention of Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting

Table 2. Primary End Point According to Study Group.

Variable	Olanzapine (N=192)	Placebo (N=188)	Total (N=380)	P Value*	Adjusted P Value†
	<i>number/total number (percent)</i>				
0–24 hr after chemotherapy					
No nausea	135/183 (73.8)	82/181 (45.3)	217/364 (59.6)	<0.001	0.002
Nausea	48/183 (26.2)	99/181 (54.7)	147/364 (40.4)		
25–120 hr after chemotherapy					
No nausea	75/177 (42.4)	45/177 (25.4)	120/354 (33.9)	0.001	0.002
Nausea	102/177 (57.6)	132/177 (74.6)	234/354 (66.1)		
0–120 hr after chemotherapy					
No nausea	66/177 (37.3)	39/178 (21.9)	105/355 (29.6)	0.002	0.002
Nausea	111/177 (62.7)	139/178 (78.1)	250/355 (70.4)		

* P values were calculated with the use of the chi-square test.

† P values were calculated according to the Simes gatekeeping procedure.

Cardiovascular Psychiatry and Neurology
Volume 2013 (2013), Article ID 647476, 13 pages
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2013/647476>

Clinical Study

Risk of Mortality (including Sudden Cardiac Death) and Major Cardiovascular Events in Users of Olanzapine and Other Antipsychotics: A Study with the General Practice Research Database

Highlights in the management of pain in elderly cancer patients

Case – Mrs. AB: History of Presenting Illness

- A 70 year-old female was referred to you by her primary care physician (PCP)
- Initially presented with cough and shortness of breath on exertion
- She was given a course of antibiotics
- Had mild improvement but symptoms recurred shortly after
- Review of systems: Positive for unintentional weight loss of 10lbs and back pain

Case – Mrs. AB: Past Medical History

- Hypertension
- Hypercholesterolemia
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Atrial fibrillation
- Diabetes mellitus
- Anxiety
- Insomnia

Case – Mrs. AB: Past Surgical History

- Hysterectomy in 1997
- Hernia repair in 2000

Case – Mrs. AB: Medications

- Metformin 500mg twice a day
- Lisinopril 20mg daily
- Metoprolol XL 50mg daily
- Aspirin 81mg daily
- Atorvastatin 40mg daily
- Lorazepam 1mg as needed
- Vitamin D 1,000 IU daily
- Spiriva/Tiotropium inhaler
- Albuterol as needed

Case – Mrs. AB: Social History

- Lives at home with her son
- Her husband passed away 2 years ago
- Used to work as a secretary, retired 10 years ago
- Ex-smoker, 20 pack years, quit 10 years ago
- Drinks occasionally (1-2 glasses of wine every week)

Case – Mrs. AB: Family History

- Has 2 brothers, 1 passed away from lung cancer (smoker)
- Another brother is still alive, has coronary artery disease
- Has 1 son and 2 daughters, one daughter has diabetes

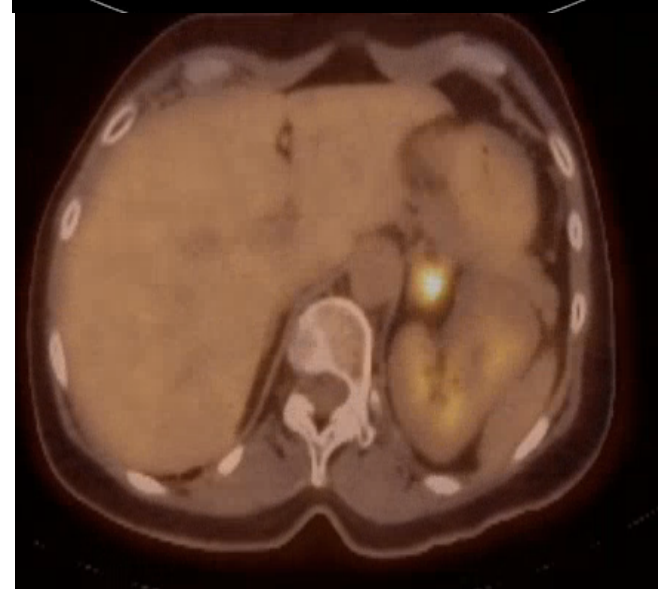
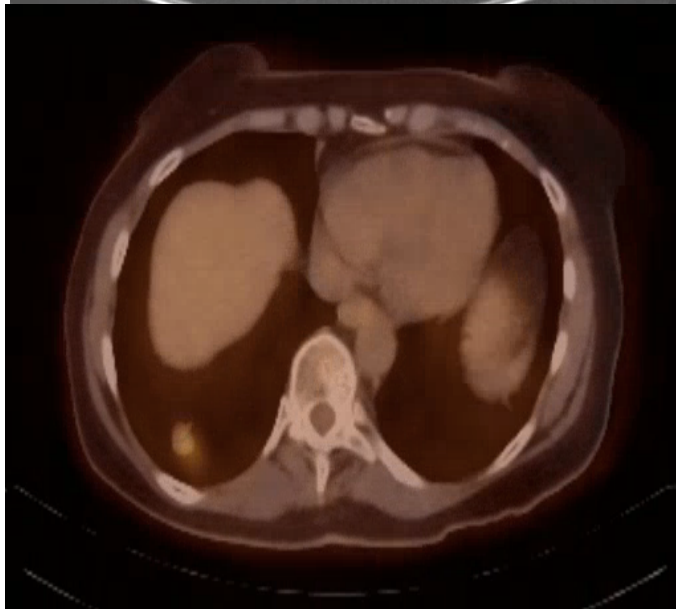
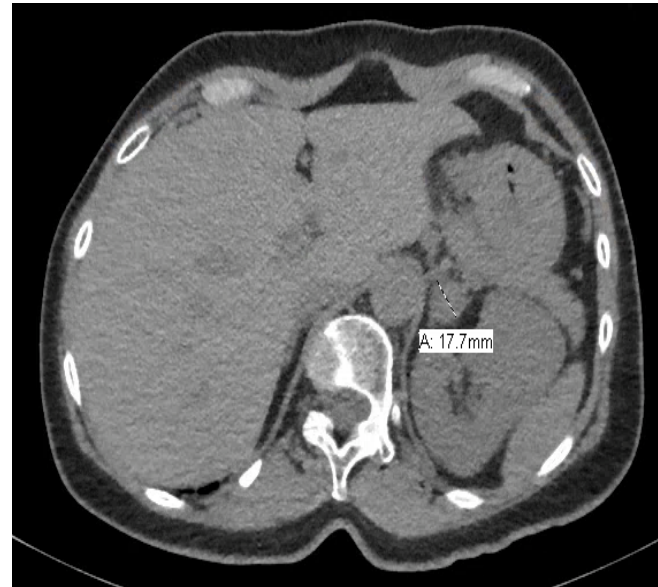
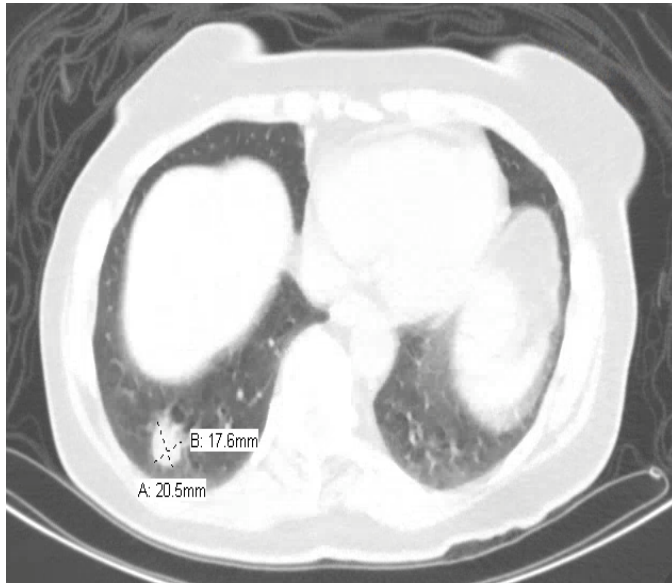
Case – Mrs. AB: Physical Examination

- Vitals: HR 70, RR 16, BP 130/90, Temp 37
- General: Alert, oriented
- Lung: **Decreased breath sounds on the right posterior lower base**, otherwise clear lung sounds, no crackles
- Cardiac: Normal heart sound, no murmurs
- Abdomen: Soft, non-tender, bowel sounds present
- Musculoskeletal: **Tenderness on palpation on the mid and lower back**
- Lower extremity: No swelling, tenderness or erythema

Case – Mrs. AB: Work-Up

- Chest X-ray: Right lower lobe opacity
- CT chest with contrast: Right lower lobe nodule and mediastinal lymphadenopathy
- Biopsy: Lung adenocarcinoma, PD-L1 <1%, ALK/ROS-1 rearrangements and EGFR mutations were negative
- PET scan: Hypermetabolic right lower lobe lung nodule, mediastinal lymphadenopathy and left adrenal nodule. Also hypermetabolic foci in the thoracic and lumbar spines
- MRI brain: No intracranial metastases

Case – Mrs. AB: CT Chest and PET Scan



Case – Mrs. AB: Management

- Summary of the case: stage IV lung adenocarcinoma, PD-L1/EGFR/ALK/ROS-1 negative
- Son was present at the appointment
- They are interested to know the options for her cancer
- You discuss systemic chemotherapy with carboplatin and pemetrexed
- You review the treatment plan with Mrs. TB and her son
- During the discussion, son mentions that her memory has declined recently
- You perform a MOCA test and she scored 21/30

Mrs. TB: Medications

- Metformin 500mg twice a day
- Lisinopril 20mg daily
- Metoprolol XL 50mg daily
- Aspirin 81mg daily
- Atorvastatin 40mg daily
- Lorazepam 1mg as needed
- Vitamin D 1,000 IU daily
- Spiriva/Tiotropium inhaler
- Albuterol as needed

Supportive Care Medications

- Pre-medications:

- Granisetron 1mg
- Dexamethasone 12mg

- Antiemetics (2-4 days):

- Prochlorperazine
- Ondansetron
- Dexamethasone
- Lorazepam

- Pain medications:

- Acetaminophen
- NSAIDs
- Narcotics

- Other supportive care medication:

Folic acid 1mg daily

Case – Mrs. AB: History of Presenting Illness

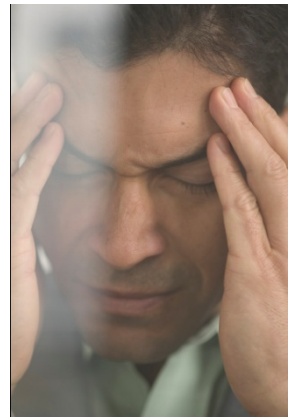
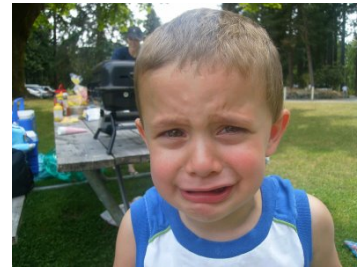
- A 70 year-old female was referred to you by her primary care physician (PCP)
- Initially presented with cough and shortness of breath on exertion
- She was given a course of antibiotics
- Had mild improvement but symptoms recurred shortly after
- Review of systems: Positive for unintentional weight loss of 10lbs and back pain

NRS: ?

What is pain?

- *Pain is a difficult word to define*
- *Patients use different words to describe pain*

Aching, Pins and needles, Annoying, Pricking, Biting, Hurting, Radiating, Blunt, Intermittent, Burning, Sore, Miserable, Splitting, Cutting, Nagging, Stabbing, Crawling, Stinging, Crushing, Tender, Dragging, Numbness, Throbbing, Dull, Overwhelming, Tingling, Electric-shock like, Penetrating, Tiring, Excruciating, Piercing, Unbearable



What is pain?

Pain is an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage, or described in terms of such damage

IASP – International Association for the Study of Pain 2011



What is pain?

ACUTE PAIN: an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage, or described in terms of such damage, or both.

CHRONIC PAIN: persistent or recurrent pain, lasting beyond the usual course of acute illness or injury, or more than 6 months, and adversely affecting the patient's well-being.

Case – Mrs. AB: Management

- Summary of the case: stage IV lung adenocarcinoma, PD-L1/EGFR/ALK/ROS-1 negative
- Son was present at the appointment
- They are interested to know the options for her cancer
- You discuss systemic chemotherapy with carboplatin and pemetrexed
- You review the treatment plan with Mrs. TB and her son
- During the discussion, son mentions that her memory has declined recently
- You perform a MOCA test and she scored 21/30

Pain Assessment in Advanced Dementia Scale (PAINAD)

Instructions: Observe the patient for five minutes before scoring his or her behaviors. Score the behaviors according to the following chart. Definitions of each item are provided on the following page. The patient can be observed under different conditions (e.g., at rest, during a pleasant activity, during caregiving, after the administration of pain medication).

Behavior	0	1	2	Score
Breathing Independent of vocalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasional labored breathing • Short period of hyperventilation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noisy labored breathing • Long period of hyperventilation • Cheyne-Stokes respirations 	
Negative vocalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasional moan or groan • Low-level speech with a negative or disapproving quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated troubled calling out • Loud moaning or groaning • Crying 	
Facial expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smiling or inexpressive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sad • Frightened • Frown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facial grimacing 	
Body language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relaxed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tense • Distressed pacing • Fidgeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rigid • Fists clenched • Knees pulled up • Pulling or pushing away • Striking out 	
Consolability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No need to console 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distracted or reassured by voice or touch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to console, distract, or reassure 	
TOTAL SCORE				

(Warden et al., 2003)

Scoring:

The total score ranges from 0-10 points. A possible interpretation of the scores is: 1-3=mild pain; 4-6=moderate pain; 7-10=severe pain. These ranges are based on a standard 0-10 scale of pain, but have not been substantiated in the literature for this tool.

Source:

Warden V, Hurlley AC, Volicer L. Development and psychometric evaluation of the Pain Assessment in Advanced Dementia (PAINAD) scale. *J Am Med Dir Assoc.* 2003;4(1):9-15.

The Specificity theory of pain

Renè Descartes 1664

Gate Control Theory

Melzack and Wall 1965

Neuromatrix Theory of pain

Melzack 2001

Melzack and Wall came up with a newer theory of pain that answered some of these questions. This new theory, the neuromatrix theory, stipulates that every human being has an innate network of neurons that they named the “body-self neuromatrix.”

Each person’s matrix of neurons is unique and is affected by all facets of the person’s physical, psychological, and cognitive traits, and also by their experience.

BODY SELF NEUROMATRIX

Chapter 1—A Conceptual Framework for Understanding Pain in the Human

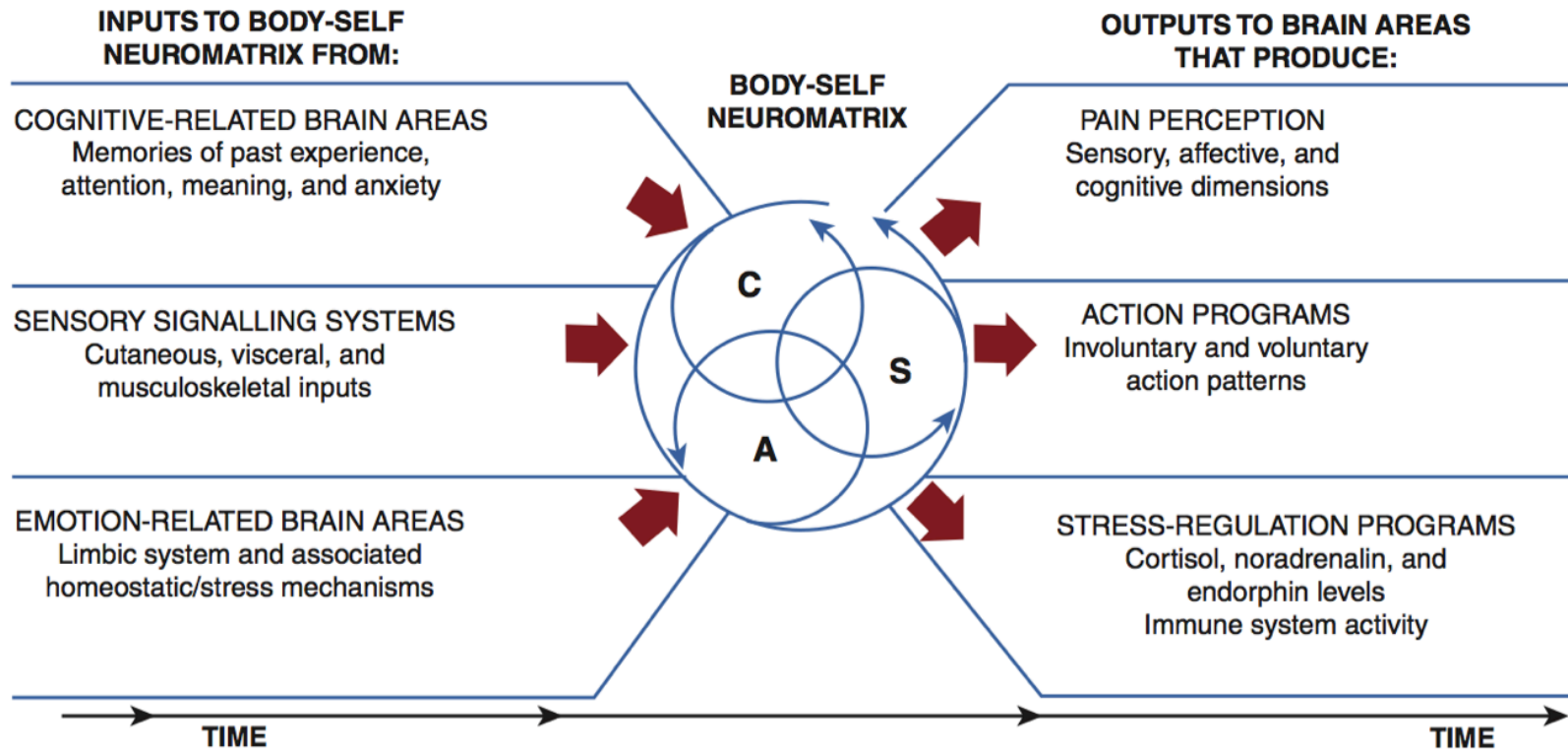


Fig. 1.3 Factors that contribute to the patterns of activity generated by the body-self neuromatrix, which is composed of sensory, affective, and cognitive neuromodules. The output patterns from the neuromatrix produce the multiple dimensions of pain experience, as well as concurrent homeostatic and behavioral responses. (From Melzack R: *Pain and the neuromatrix in the brain*, *J Dent Educ* 65:1378–1382, 2001.)

BODY SELF NEUROMATRIX

Chapter 1—A Conceptual Framework for Understanding Pain in the Human

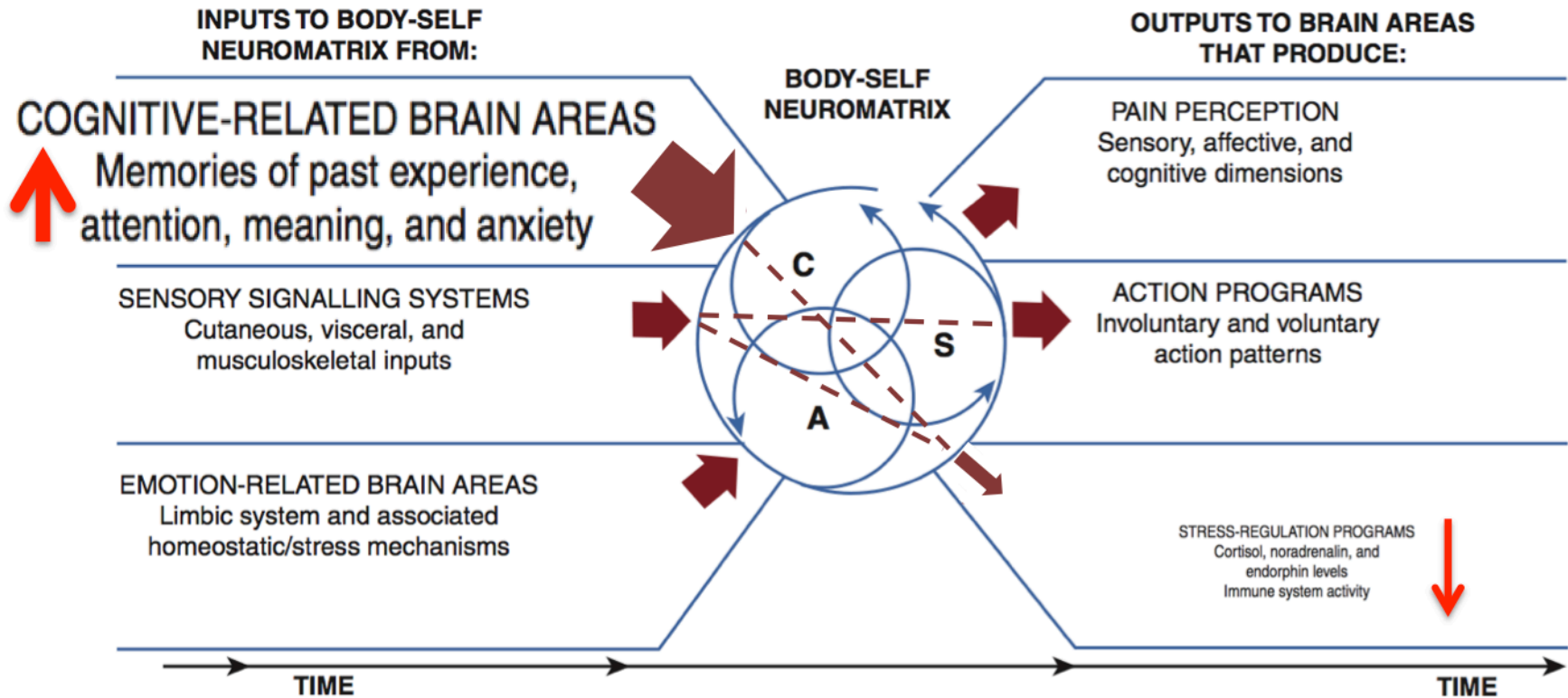


Fig. 1.3 Factors that contribute to the patterns of activity generated by the body-self neuromatrix, which is composed of sensory, affective, and cognitive neuromodules. The output patterns from the neuromatrix produce the multiple dimensions of pain experience, as well as concurrent homeostatic and behavioral responses. (From Melzack R: *Pain and the neuromatrix in the brain*, J Dent Educ 65:1378–1382, 2001.)

Supportive Care Medications

- Pre-medications:

- Granisetron 1mg
- Dexamethasone 12mg

- Antiemetics (2-4 days):

- Prochlorperazine
- Ondansetron
- Dexamethasone
- Lorazepam

- **Pain medications:**

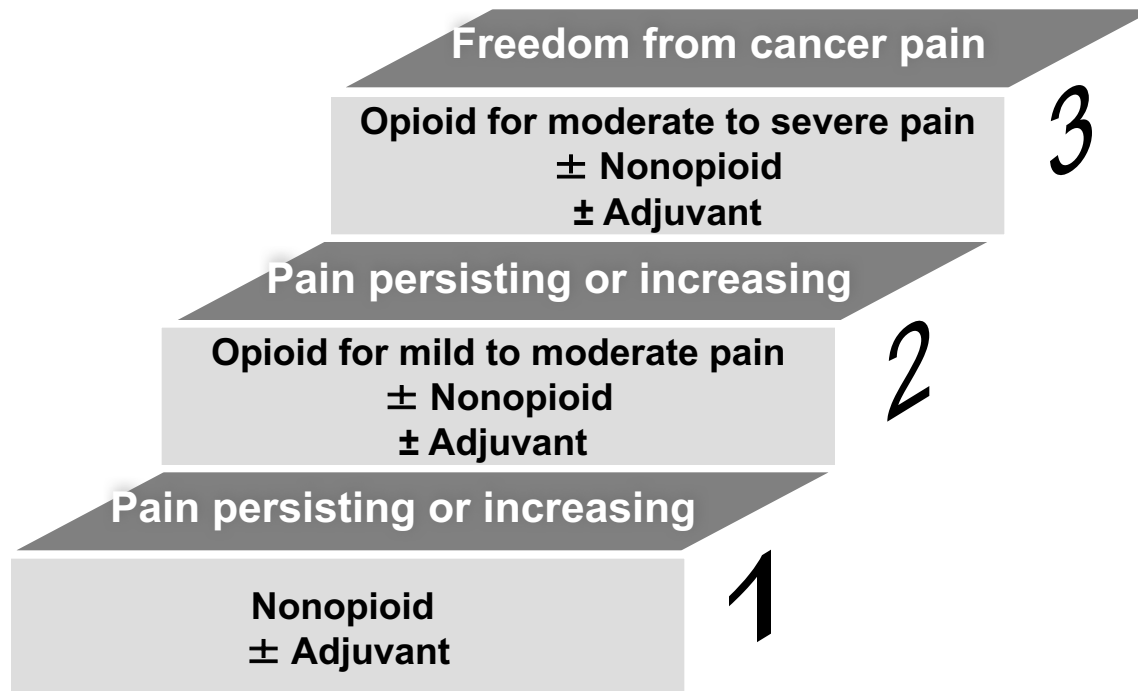
- **Acetaminophen**
- **NSAIDs**
- **Narcotics**

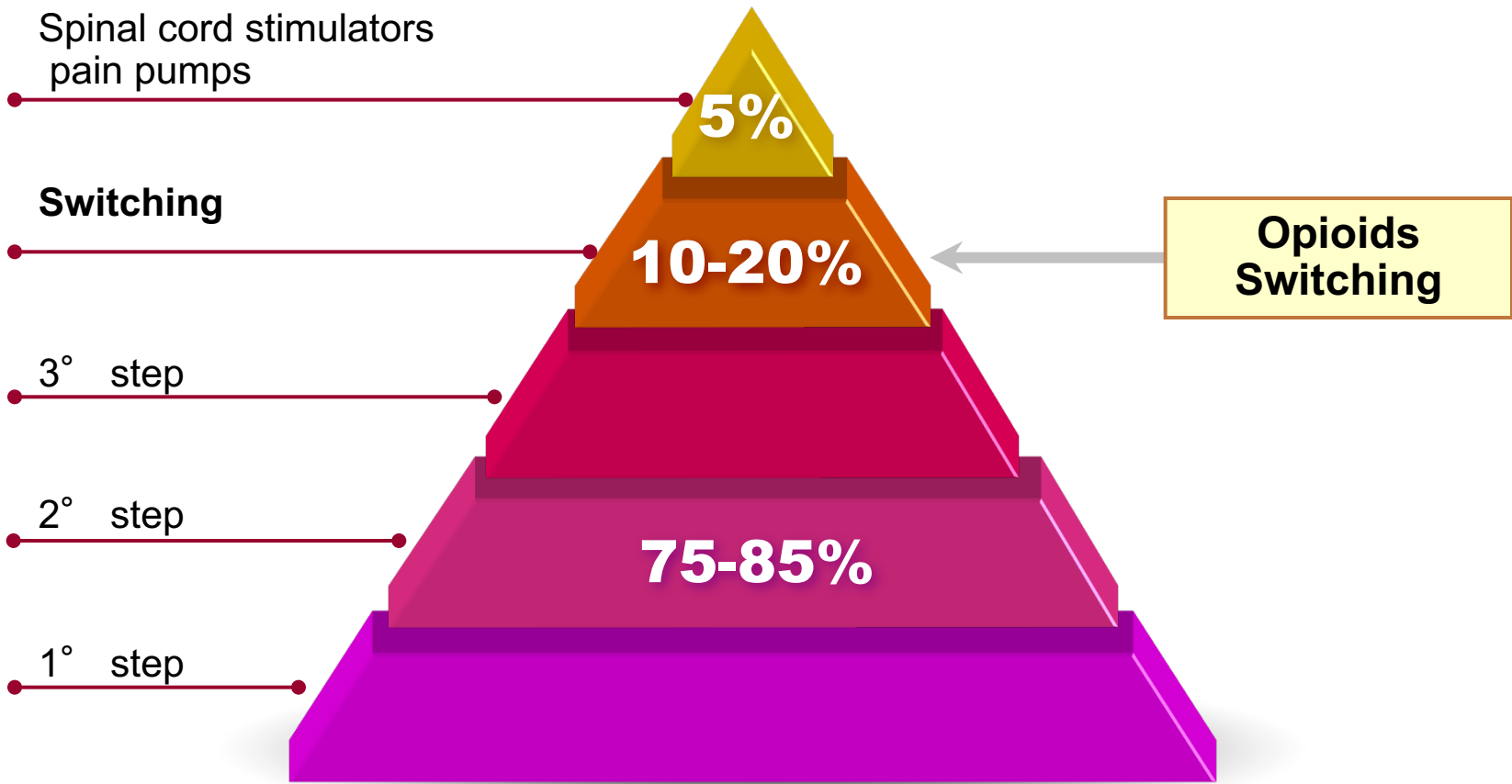
- Other supportive care medication:

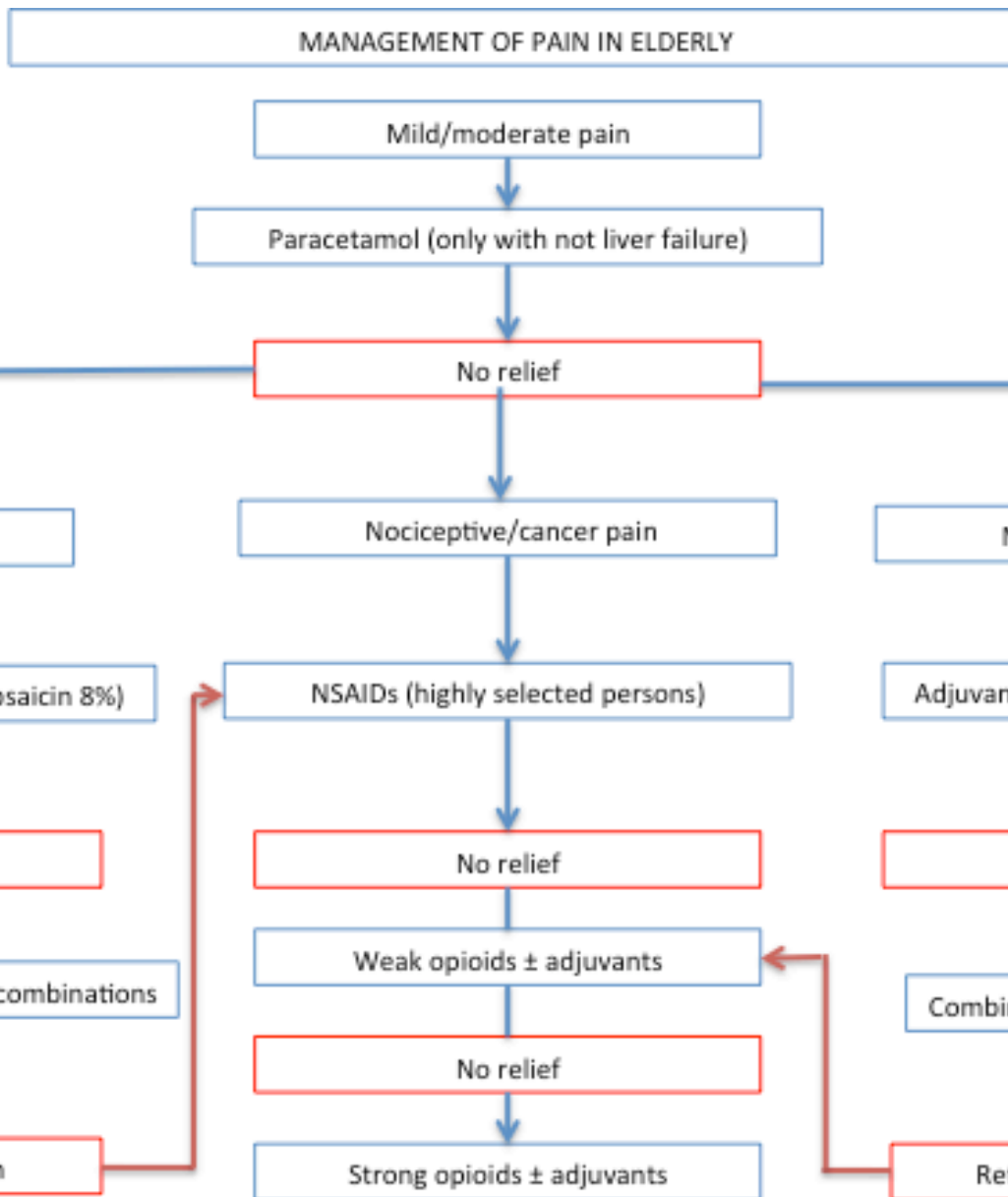
Folic acid 1mg daily

A Practical Approach to Pain Management

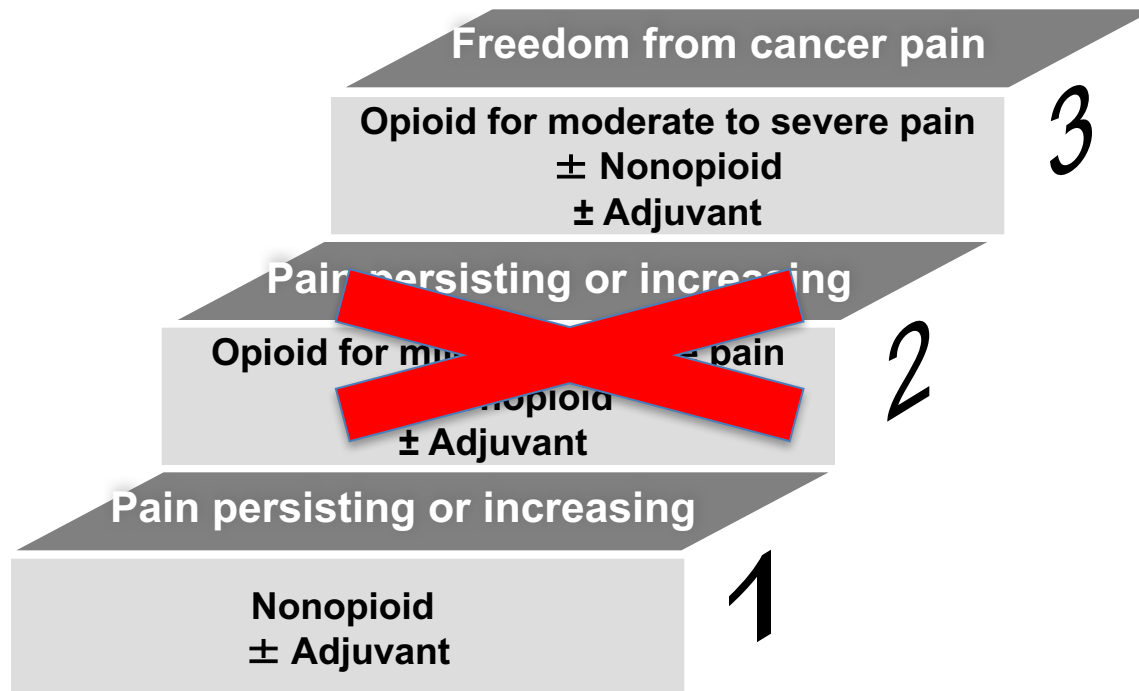
The World Health Organization Ladder for Chronic Cancer Pain Management
Medical therapies remain the mainstay of chronic cancer pain management.







The World Health Organization Ladder for Chronic Cancer Pain Management
Medical therapies remain the mainstay of chronic cancer pain management.



Case – Mrs. AB: Management

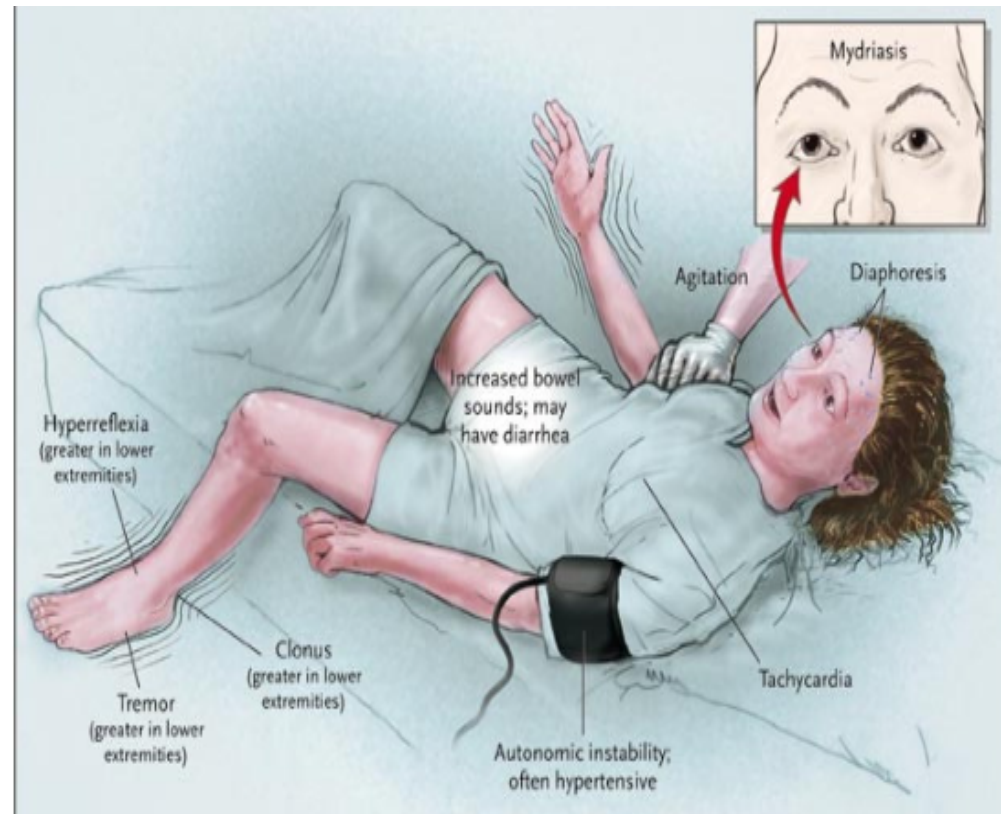
- Summary of the case: stage IV lung adenocarcinoma, PD-L1/EGFR/ALK/ROS-1 negative
- Son was present at the appointment
- They are interested to know the options for her cancer
- You discuss systemic chemotherapy with carboplatin and pemetrexed
- You review the treatment plan with Mrs. TB and her son
- During the discussion, son mentions that her memory has declined recently
- You perform a MOCA test and she scored 21/30

Geriatric Setting

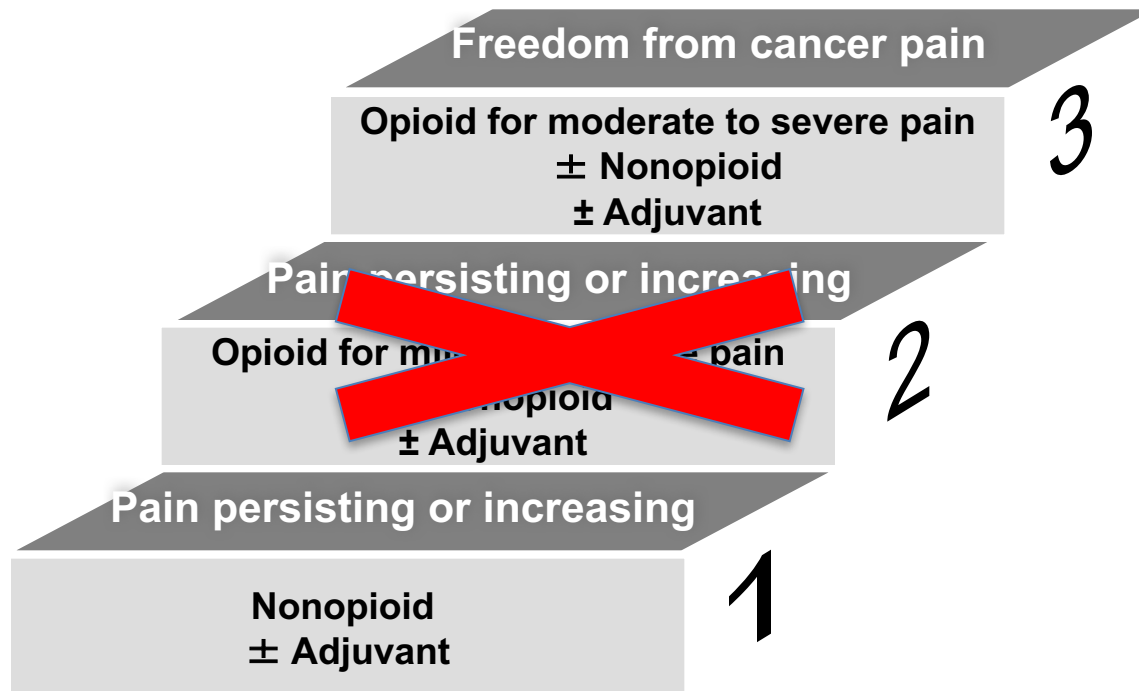
~~TRAMADOL~~

Serotonin Syndrome

Confusion
Agitation or restlessness
Dilated pupils
Headache
Changes in blood pressure and/or temperature
Nausea and/or vomiting
Diarrhea
Rapid heart rate
Tremor
Loss of muscle coordination or twitching muscles
Shivering and goose bumps
Heavy sweating



The World Health Organization Ladder for Chronic Cancer Pain Management
Medical therapies remain the mainstay of chronic cancer pain management.





Opioid Use and Addiction

Opioids for Chronic Pain— United States, 2016 CME

Deborah Dowell and Coauthors

JAMA | *Special Communication*, April 19, 2016

Children of the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain: Above All, Do No Harm

Neil L. Schechter and Gary A. Walco

JAMA Pediatrics | *Editorial*, May 2016

Pain: Not for the Faint of Heart

Mitchell H. Katz

JAMA Internal Medicine | *Editorial*, May 2016

Seeking Balance Between Pain Relief and Safety: CDC Issues New Opioid-Prescribing Guidelines

William Renthal

JAMA Neurology | *Editorial*, May 2016

The CDC Guideline on Opioid Prescribing: Rising to the Challenge

Yngvild Olsen

JAMA | *Editorial*, April 19, 2016

Zero Pain Is Not the Goal

Thomas H. Le

JAMA | *Editorial*

Opioid Prescribing After Surgical Extraction of Teeth in Medicaid Patients, 2000-2010

James A. Baker and Coauthors

JAMA | *Research Letter*, April 19, 2016

Opioids Prescribed After Low- Risk Surgical Procedures in the United States, 2004-2012

Hannah Wunsch and Coauthors

JAMA | *Research Letter*, April 19, 2016

Opioids fo

LeShaundra C

JAMA | JAMA



MEDPAGE TODAY®

Public Health & Policy > Opioids

Trump Declares Opioid Crisis a Public Health Emergency

— A good first step, but more efforts are needed, say observers

by [Joyce Frieden](#), News Editor, MedPage Today

October 26, 2017

JUNE 2015

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

WEED

THE NEW SCIENCE
OF MARIJUANA

Should Captive
Dolphins
Be Freed?

Dry Times
Are Here for
the Aral Sea

Living
Goddesses
of Nepal

TIME

The Highly Divisive,
Curiously Underfunded
and Strangely Promising
World of Pot Science

BY BRUCE BARCOTT & MICHAEL SCHERER



Cannabinoids in the management of difficult to treat pain

Ethan B Russo

GW Pharmaceuticals, Vashon, WA,
USA

Abstract: This article reviews recent research on cannabinoid analgesia via the endocannabinoid system and non-receptor mechanisms, as well as randomized clinical trials employing cannabinoids in pain treatment. Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC, Marinol[®]) and nabilone (Cesamet[®]) are currently approved in the United States and other countries, but not for pain indications. Other synthetic cannabinoids, such as ajulemic acid, are in development. Crude herbal cannabis remains illegal in most jurisdictions but is also under investigation. Sativex[®], a cannabis derived oromucosal spray containing equal proportions of THC (partial CB₁ receptor agonist) and cannabidiol (CBD, a non-euphoriant, anti-inflammatory analgesic with CB₁ receptor antagonist and endocannabinoid modulating effects) was approved in Canada in 2005 for treatment of central neuropathic pain in multiple sclerosis, and in 2007 for intractable cancer pain. Numerous randomized clinical trials have demonstrated safety and efficacy for Sativex in central and peripheral neuropathic pain, rheumatoid arthritis and cancer pain. An Investigational New Drug application to conduct advanced clinical trials for cancer pain was approved by the US FDA in January 2006. Cannabinoid analgesics have generally been well tolerated in clinical trials with acceptable adverse event profiles. Their adjunctive addition to the pharmacological armamentarium for treatment of pain shows great promise.



RESEARCH
EDUCATION
TREATMENT
ADVOCACY

PUBLISHED BY



ELSEVIER

The Journal of Pain, Vol 16, No 12 (December), 2015: pp 1233-1242

Available online at www.jpain.org and www.sciencedirect.com

Original Reports

Cannabis for the Management of Pain: Assessment of Safety Study (COMPASS)

Mark A. Ware,^{*,†} Tongtong Wang,[‡] Stan Shapiro,^{‡,§} and Jean-Paul Collet[¶] for the COMPASS STUDY TEAM¹

*Departments of *Anesthesia, [†]Family Medicine, [‡]Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.*

[§]Centre for Clinical Epidemiology, Jewish General Hospital, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

[¶]Department of Pediatrics, University of British Columbia; Child and Family Research Institute, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Special Communication

CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain— United States, 2016

Deborah Dowell, MD, MPH; Tamara M. Haegerich, PhD; Roger Chou, MD

CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE The guideline is intended to improve communication about benefits and risks of opioids for chronic pain, improve safety and effectiveness of pain treatment, and reduce risks associated with long-term opioid therapy.

Original Investigation

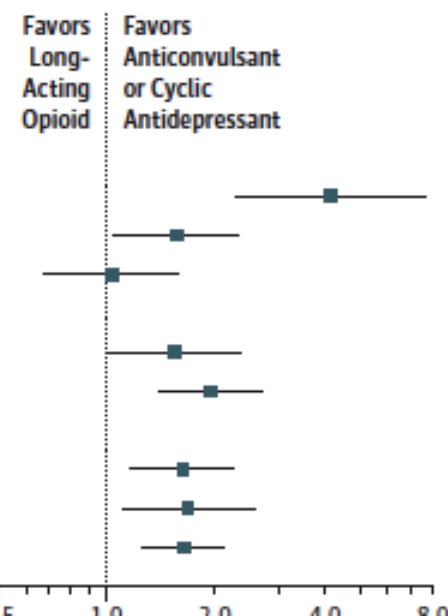
Prescription of Long-Acting Opioids and Mortality in Patients With Chronic Noncancer Pain

Wayne A. Ray, PhD; Cecilia P. Chung, MD, MPH; Katherine T. Murray, MD; Kathi Hall, BS; C. Michael Stein, MB, ChB

 Supplemental content at

Figure. Mortality According to Study Drug Duration, Dose, and Baseline Use of Short-Acting Opioids

	Anticonvulsant or Cyclic Antidepressant			Long-acting Opioid			Risk Difference (95% CI)	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)
	No. of Patients	Person-Years	No. of Deaths	No. of Patients	Person-Years	No. of Deaths		
Time since drug started, d								
≤30	22 912	2054	13	22 912	2042	53	200 (80 to 420)	4.16 (2.27-7.63)
31-180	11 752	3026	40	12 194	3534	70	74 (7 to 172)	1.56 (1.05-2.30)
>180	3765	2986	34	5584	5494	62	3 (-37 to 65)	1.03 (0.67-1.57)
Study drug dose during follow-up								
Low	13 345	3311	31	19 564	5381	75	51 (1 to 125)	1.54 (1.01-2.34)
High	13 495	4755	56	9637	5689	110	111 (47 to 200)	1.94 (1.40-2.70)
Short-acting opioid at baseline, mg								
≤30	14 590	5275	54	14 504	6949	110	63 (16 to 128)	1.62 (1.16-2.25)
>30	8322	2792	33	8408	4121	75	80 (13 to 184)	1.68 (1.11-2.56)
All	22 912	8066	87	22 912	11 070	185	69 (28 to 121)	1.64 (1.26-2.12)



Identifying and assessing the risk of opioid abuse in patients with cancer: an integrative review

Conclusion: Screening questionnaires and urine drug screens indicated **at least one in five patients with cancer may be at risk of opioid-use disorder.** Several studies demonstrated associations between high-risk patients and clinical outcomes, such as aberrant behavior, prolonged opioid use, higher morphine-equivalent daily dose, greater health care utilization, and symptom burden.

Opioid Therapy - Titrate to Effect

