Foreword

The Management of Chronic Pain: What Do We Know, What Do We Do, and How Should We Redesign Our Comprehensive Assessment and Treatment in order to Provide for More Patient-Centered Care?

Edward R. Bollard, MD, DDS, FACP
Consulting Editor

The discussion of the management of chronic pain is a daily occurrence for the practicing generalist, whether it be on rounds in the inpatient setting or in busy outpatient clinics. Our patients are exposed to information and advertisements pertaining to modalities directed at the treatment of chronic pain every day. The media addressing both the overutilization and underutilization of various pain management strategies are pervasive; therefore, it is essential that the physician caring for patients with chronic pain has a considerable understanding, as well as a working knowledge, of the pathophysiology, psychosocial aspects, pharmacology, and evidence supporting other treatment options in the comprehensive plan for chronic pain management.

In this issue of Medical Clinics of North America, Dr Charles E. Argoff and his colleagues provide insight into the current understanding of chronic pain: from the taxonomy of these conditions, to how one may transition from acute to chronic pain and the implications for treatment, to various modalities to address treatment strategies—including the novel platelet-rich plasma—to the common medical conditions in patients that frequently present to our practices with complaints of “chronic pain.” Specific populations at risk for chronic pain, as well as the potential adverse effects of treating the pain in these populations, are presented in the article by Dr Baumbauer...
and colleagues. Finally, a frank discussion and review of guidelines for the utilization of narcotics and the potential of abuse in prescribing this pharmacologic intervention are presented.

Chronic pain can be frustrating to the practitioner, who has gaps in the breadth and depth of knowledge that is needed to assess, diagnose, and manage it. We hope the articles in this issue will go a long way in reducing these knowledge gaps, resulting in more advanced, comprehensive, safe, and effective care for our patients.

Edward R. Bollard, MD, DDS, FACP
Department of Medicine
Penn State–Hershey Medical Center
Penn State University College of Medicine
500 University Drive
PO Box 850 (Mail Code H039)
Hershey, PA 17033-0850, USA
E-mail address:
ebollard@hmc.psu.edu