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Cancer Pain and Pain Medicine: Characteristics, Management and Impact on Patients

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Message from the Guest Editor

Cancer pain typically persists past normal healing times and can have many sources, typically within the musculoskeletal system, nerve tissues, or viscera. In these situations, the pain patient is often not merely a passive victim but an active participant. They play their part by looking for solutions, through attempts to suppress or ease the experience, and sometimes literally and figuratively fighting for control. They may look for information from physicians or the Internet, trying to understand why they have pain. They may see many professionals and try many different medical treatments. They may adopt patterns of checking their body for signs of a change, or of worsening pain, and ruminate about their health problems. They may dwell on the past and imagine possible consequences of pain in the future. Today, multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary treatments are the best approaches for chronic and cancer pain. These treatments can include medications, interventional procedures, and physiotherapy paired with a psychological coping treatment. Future prospects of finding suitable drugs for pain depend on an improved understanding of pain mechanisms.



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