

Perspective

Mechanism of Pain Management and its Characteristics

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DESCRIPTION

Pain is a sensory emotion and psychological experience that can significantly impact an individual's quality of life. Whether it is acute pain resulting from an injury or surgery, or chronic pain caused by conditions such as arthritis or neuropathy, effective pain management is essential for enhancing physical and psychological well-being.

Characteristics of pain

Pain is a complicated phenomenon that involves the interaction of multiple physiological, psychological, and social factors. It can be classified into two broad categories: Acute pain and chronic pain. Acute pain is typically short-term and serves as a preventive measure to the body in order to protect the injury or harm. It typically decreases once the underlying cause has been treated or healed. On the other side, chronic pain persists for several years or even months after the estimated healing time. It can have a significant impact on an individual's physical and emotional well-being, resulting to functional impairment, decreased quality of life, and psychological distress.

Pharmacological approaches to pain management

Pharmacological interventions are commonly used in pain management and it can be classified into several categories, including Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs), opioids, adjuvant analgesics, and local anesthetics. NSAIDs such as ibuprofen and acetaminophen are commonly used for mild to moderate pain and perform by decreasing inflammation and inhibiting pain signals. Opioids, such as morphine and oxycodone, are powerful analgesics that can be used for moderate to severe pain. However, they are dangerous to use, including the potential for dependence, tolerance, and respiratory depression, and should be used judiciously and under the supervision of a healthcare professional.

Adjuvant analgesics are medications that are not primarily designed for pain relief but it can be used in combination with other analgesics to enhance their effectiveness. For example,

antidepressants and anticonvulsants can be used to manage neuropathic pain, which is caused by damage or dysfunction of the nervous system. Local anesthetics, such as lidocaine, can be used topically or as nerve blocks to provide localized pain relief in specific areas.

Non-pharmacological approaches to pain management

In addition to pharmacological interventions, non-pharmacological techniques play an essential role in pain management. They can be used either alone or in combination with pharmacological interventions to provide comprehensive and holistic techniques to pain relief. Non-pharmacological approaches include:

Physical therapy: Physical therapy involves a variety of exercises, stretches, and techniques to improve physical function, reduce pain, and stimulate healing. It can be particularly effective in managing musculoskeletal pain, such as back pain or joint pain, and it can also help to improve mobility, strength, and flexibility.

Occupational therapy: Occupational therapy focuses on helping individuals with chronic pain to improve their ability to perform daily activities and participate in important activities, such as work, socializing, and self-care. Occupational therapists can provide techniques and modifications to the physical environment, require pain management techniques, and provide emotional support.

Psychological interventions: Chronic pain is frequently associated with emotional distress, including anxiety, depression, and stress, which can exacerbate pain perception. Psychological interventions, such as Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT), relaxation techniques, and Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), can help individuals to develop adapting strategies, improve emotional well-being, and reduce pain intensity.

Exercise and physical activity: Regular physical activity and exercise can play an essential role in pain management. Exercise helps to strengthen muscles, improve flexibility, and release endorphins, which are natural pain-relieving hormones. It can

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also enhance better sleep, reduce stress, and improve overall well-being. However, it is important to consult with a healthcare professional before starting any exercise program, particularly if

person have an existing health condition or if individual are experiencing severe pain.