Management of acute pain in adults in the emergency department.

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Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM)

Hunt P, France J. Management of acute pain in adults in the emergency department. London (England): Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM); 2024 Sep. 25 p. [31 references]

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Overview

Guideline Objective

To provide clear guidance on the standards for timeliness of provision of analgesia, and to provide an approach to the delivery of analgesia for adult patients presenting to the emergency department (ED) with acute nociceptive pain

Note: The guidance does not specifically cover pain management of children or for palliative care. Although intended to provide recommendations which can be applied in these circumstances, the guidance has not been specifically developed to cover acute or chronic pain, or neuropathic pain conditions.

Patient Population

Adult patients presenting to the ED with acute nociceptive pain

Recommendations

Recommendation Statements

Major interventions covered in this guideline include:

- Assessment of pain severity
- Pain management, including drug seeking behaviours and prescribing for elderly and pregnant women
- Treatment with analgesia based on severity, including suggested route and type, initiation, and time from ED arrival
- Non-systemic drug treatment options
- Considerations for discharge medications

Note: Full recommendation statements have not been provided because this guideline does not meet EGT's systematic review of the evidence criteria. Refer to the original guideline for more information.

Evidence Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

Recommendation Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

Related Content

Supporting Documents

No supporting documents available.

Implementation Tools

No implementation tools available.

Patient Education

No patient education materials available.

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