

Applying High-tech Tools in Pain Management

Brigham and Women's Hospital, Pain Management Center, Dept of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine, Boston

Multidisciplinary and multimodal are the best words to describe the Pain Management Centers in the hospital's Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine.

The staff includes experts from a wide range of medical specialties as well as physical therapists, massage therapists, acupuncturists and dentists. According to Srdjan S. Nedeljkovic, M.D., fellowship program director, the team strives to achieve a unified approach in evaluating pain problems and is committed to using innovative methods to tailor treatment to patient profiles. Also, staff has developed legislative policies at state and regional levels and models of pain care practice for insurance companies.



Srdjan S. Nedeljkovic, MD

Drawing from the diverse array of practitioners, the center is uniquely positioned to offer a wide variety of interventional and non-interventional pain-management approaches. In addition, a highly competitive educational fellowship program is maintained, with graduates continuing on as leaders in the field of pain medicine. The center is also highly regarded for its successful programs utilizing computer and information technology in the assessment of pain patients, its screening methods to check for addiction risk in opioid-treated patients, and for its patented pain treatment algorithms and back-to-work initiatives.

Staff from BWH Pain Management Center say that patients who enter their facility get fully immersed in multi-disciplinary pain assessment and treatment. The center serves as a model of interventional and noninterventional treatment approaches, which include psychotherapy; medication management; biofeedback; physical and occupational therapy; neural blockade procedures; radiofrequency lesioning and chemical neuroablation, and implantation of spinal cord stimulators, intrathecal pumps, and epidural portacaths.

A model of innovation and excellence, the center uses longitudinal medical records, note scanning, and electronic diary technology, and implements a developed system of assessment of risk/benefit potential to tailor treatment to patient profiles. On the legislative front, BWH Pain Management Center staff was invited by its state governor to participate on a special commission on drug abuse. Staff representatives, meanwhile, are developing Massachusetts legislative policies favorable to pain management.

The BWH Pain Management Center staff also is committed to advancing scientific knowledge. Staff members contribute an average of 15 publications a year, sit on editorial boards of four pain journals, and frequently grant interviews to local and national media.

The center actively collaborates with other Boston-area healthcare systems, such as The Dana Farber Cancer Institute to provide state-of-the-art pain and palliative care services, Partners HealthCare to improve access to pain services for all of its patients, and the BWH Spine Center, whose aim is to bring evidence-based practice to a cost-conscious outcome-based model of care for patients with spinal and musculoskeletal disease.

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