



Effective Health Care Pain Management for Arachnoiditis Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Pain management for arachnoiditis is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available for a review at this time.

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator is interested in the comparative effectiveness of pain management strategies to relieve pain from arachnoiditis.

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Population(s): Individuals suffering from arachnoiditis.

Intervention(s): Pain relief using transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS), tramadol hydrochloride (an opioid), gabapentin (an anti-epileptic), spinal steroid injection, and surgery.

Comparator(s): See Interventions.

Outcome(s): Reduction in chronic back pain, increased ability to perform activities of daily living. Harms: increased pain, lessened mobility.

Key Questions from Nominator: None

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- There is very limited literature specific to arachnoiditis; therefore, the topic of pain management for arachnoiditis is not feasible for a full systematic review. However, there are several available guidelines on neuropathic or chronic non-cancer pain, including:
 - National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (2010). *Neuropathic pain: the pharmacological management of neuropathic pain in adults in non-specialist settings*. London: National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

- Attal N, Cruccu G, Baron R, Haanpaa M, Hansson P, Jensen TS et al. *EFNS guidelines on the pharmacological treatment of neuropathic pain: 2010 revision*. *European Journal of Neurology* 2010; 17(9):1113-1e88
- Chou R, Fanciullo GJ, Fine PG, Adler JA, Ballantyne JC, Davies P, Donovan MI, Fishbain DA, Foley KM, Fudin J, Gilson AM, Kelter A, Mauskop A, O'Connor PG, Passik SD, Pasternak GW, Portenoy RK, Rich BA, Roberts RG, Todd KH, Miaskowski C, American Pain Society-American Academy of Pain Medicine Opioids Guidelines Panel. *Clinical guidelines for the use of chronic opioid therapy in chronic non-cancer pain*. *J Pain* 2009 Feb;10(2):113-30.