# Chronic Pain in Older Adults Comprehensive Assessment and Management

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Presented By: Carlo Ammendolia D.C., Ph.D







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# Agenda

Definitions/prevalence & burden/complexity

Key principles/components for assessment & management

Practical tips for management

New evidence for effectiveness









### **Disclosures**

**No Relationships with Commercial Interests** 

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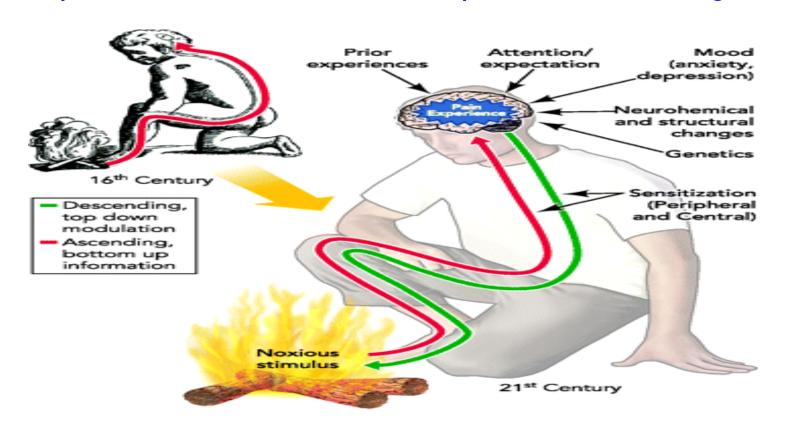
Founder spinemobility Research & Resource Centre-Not-for-Profit Organization

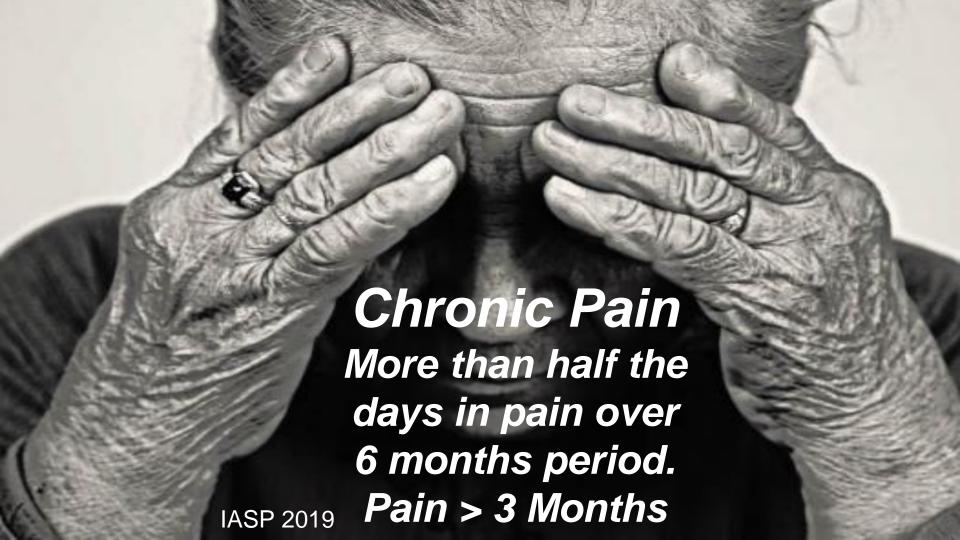




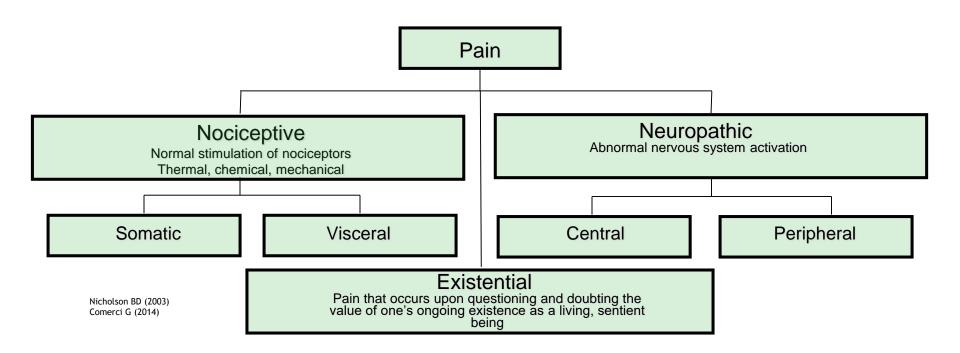


# Pain defined: IASP (1986): an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage





#### Diagnosis: Nociceptive vs. Neuropathic

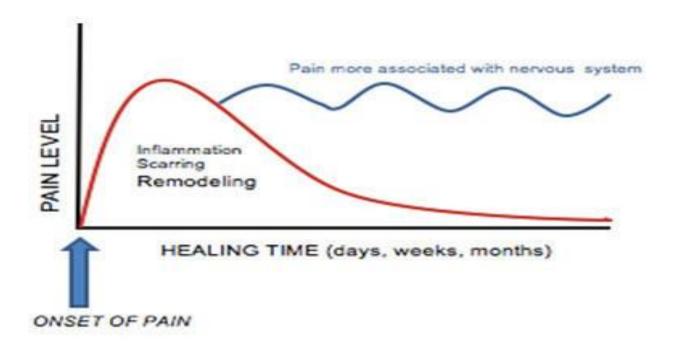




#### Pain persistence

- Acute Pain
  - Usually obvious tissue damage
  - · Protective function
  - Increased nervous system activity
  - Pain resolves upon healing

- Chronic Pain
  - Pain beyond expected period of healing
  - Pain no longer serves a useful purpose
  - Changes in pain signalling and detection
  - Degrades health and function

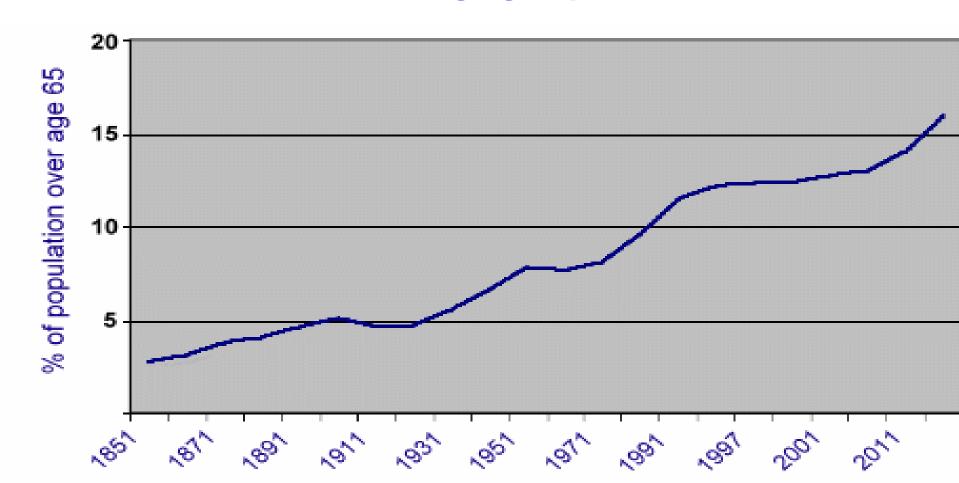


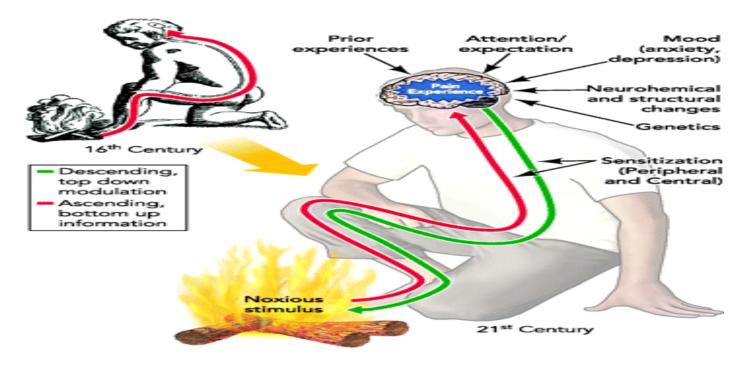






#### **Canada's Aging Population**

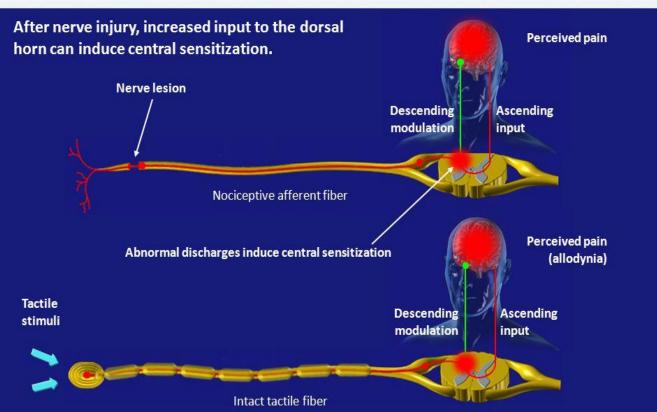


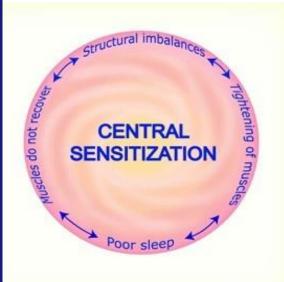


Hadjistavropoulos et al 2014

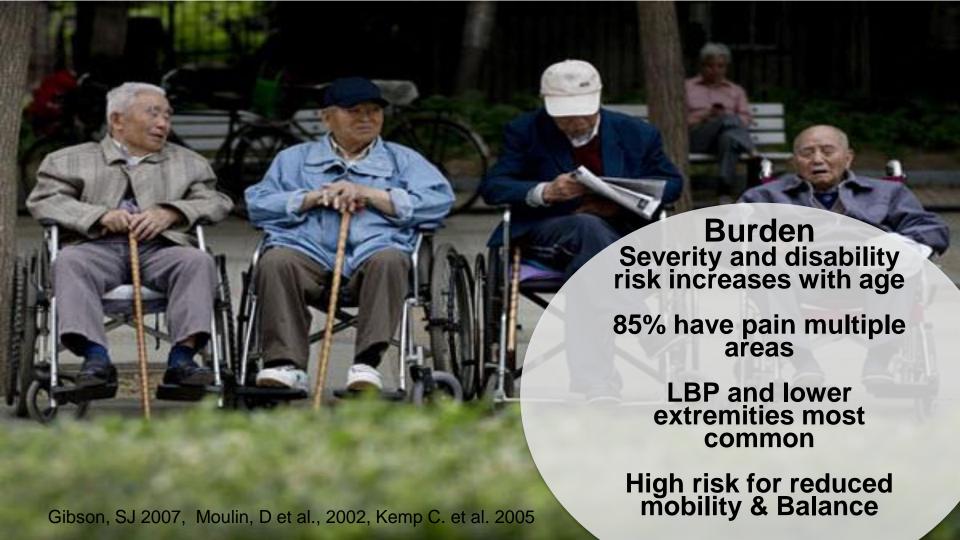
Aging related neurophysiological changes influence pain processing, and reduced pain tolerance from deterioration of the pathways involved in endogenous inhibition

#### **Central Sensitization**

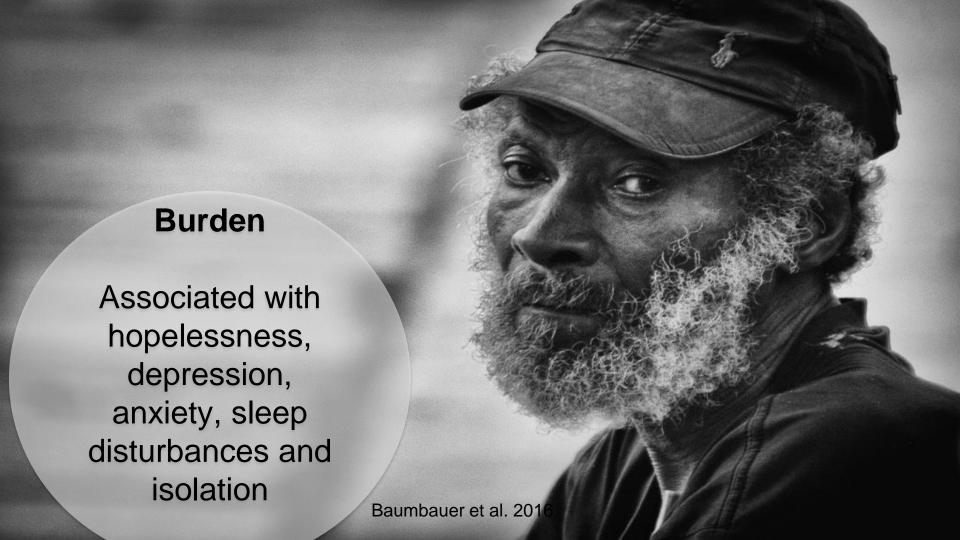


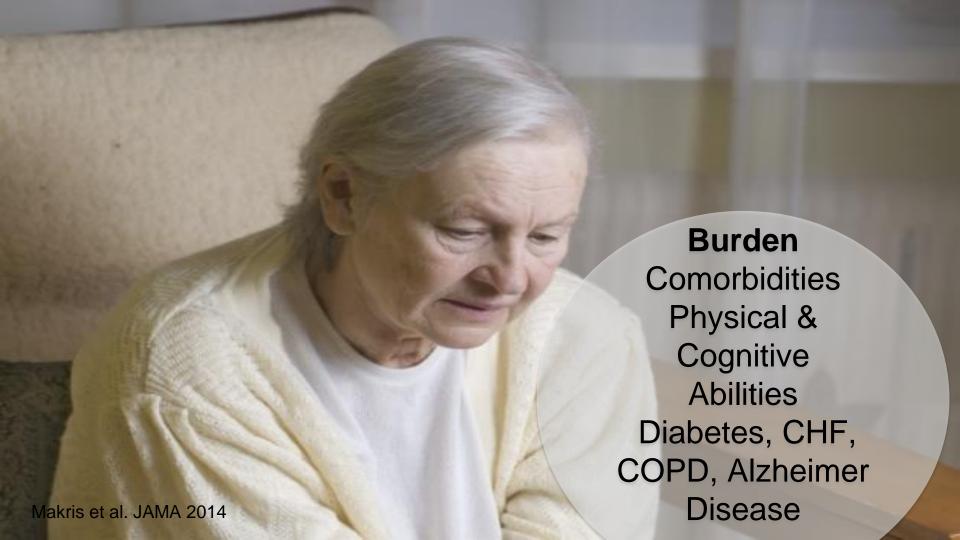


Adapted from: Campbell JN, Meyer RA. Neuron 2006; 52(1):77-92; Gottschalk A, Smith DS. Am Fam Physician 2001; 63(10):1979-86; Henriksson KG. J Rehabil Med 2003; 41(Suppl):89-94; Larson AA et al. Pain 2000; 87(2):201-11; Marchand S. Rheum Dis Clin North Am 2008; 34(2):285-309; Rao SG. Rheum Dis Clin North Am 2002; 28(2):235-59; Staud R. Arthritis Res Ther 2006; 8(3):208-14; Staud R, Rodriguez ME. Nat Clin Proct Rheumatol 2006; 2(2):90-8; Vaerøy H et al. Pain 1988; 32(1):21-6; Woolf CJ et al. Ann Intern Med 2004; 140(6):441-51.



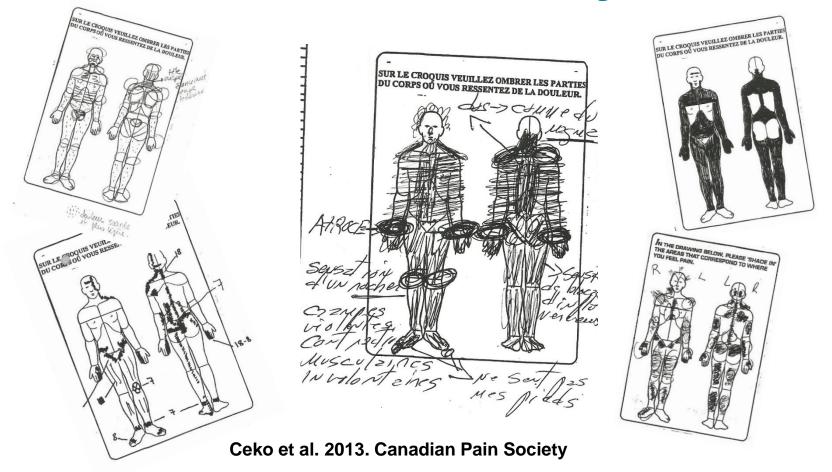








#### **Chronic Pain: Patients' Pain Diagrams**

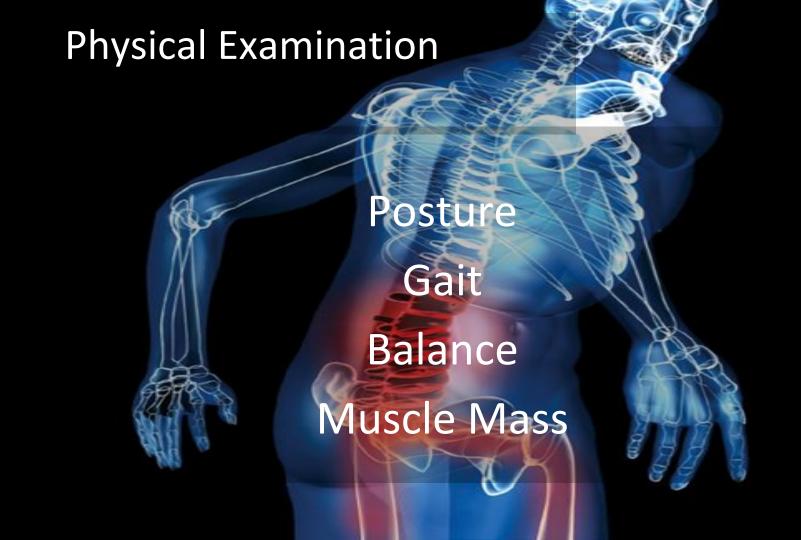


# "NIFTI" Red Flag Screening

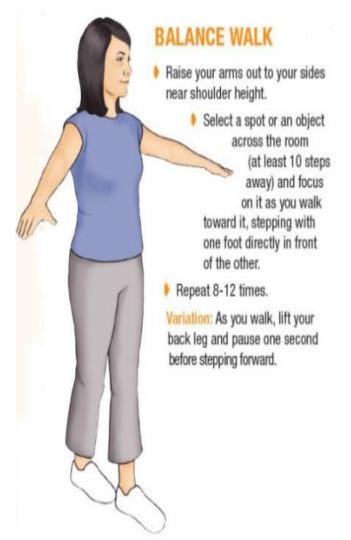
Red Flags (check if positive)	☐ No Red Flags
■ Neurological: diffuse motor /sensory loss, progressive neurological deficits, cauda equina syndrome	
☐ Infection: fever, IV drug use, immune suppressed	
☐ Fracture: trauma, osteoporosis risk	
☐ Tumour: hx of cancer, unexplained weight loss, significant unexpected night pain,	
significant fatigue	
☐ Inflammation: chronic low back pain > 3 months, age of onset < 45, morning stiffness > 30 minutes, improvement with exercise, disproportionate night pain	

# Screening "Yellow Flags"

Barriers / Yellow Flags (check if positive)    No Barriers	
For those with low back pain > 6 weeks or non-responsive to treatment:	
Belief that pain and activity will cause physical harm	
Excessive reliance on rest, time off work or dependency on others	
Persistent low or negative moods, social withdrawal	
Belief that passive treatment (i.e. modalities) is key to recovery	
Problems at work, poor job satisfaction	
Unsupportive / dysfunctional or dependent family relationships	
Over exaggeration / catastrophyzing of pain symptoms	











# "Sarcopenia" is a most important factor to prevent frailty

Sarco =Muscle



Penia =lack of

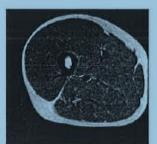
Sarcopenia

(Muscle Weakness/Loss)

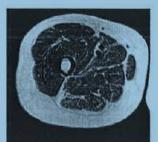
#### <Diagnostic criteria>

- 1. Low muscle mass
- 2. Low muscle strength
- 3. Low physical performance

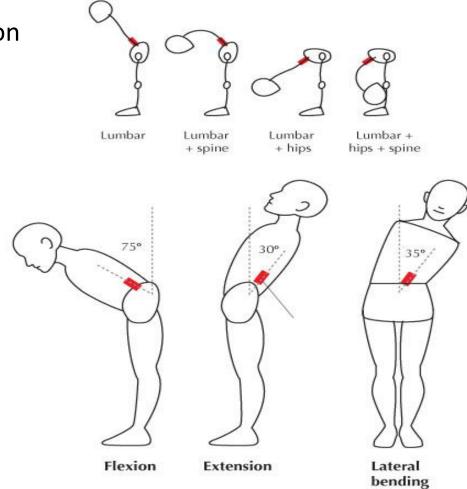
#### normal



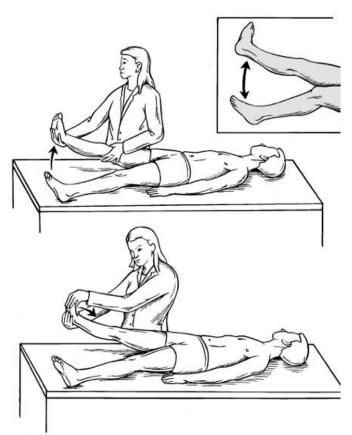
#### sarcopenia

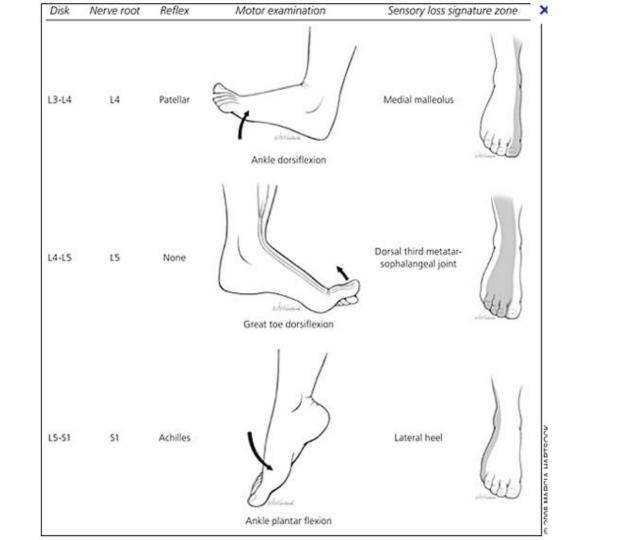


#### Range of Motion



## **Neural Tension - SLR**





### Hip Osteoarthritis



- Definitions
- Patho-physiology
- Prevalence
- 27% adults > 45y have radiographic hip OA
  - 9% symptomatic

Devin et al, J Am Acad Orthop Surg 2012

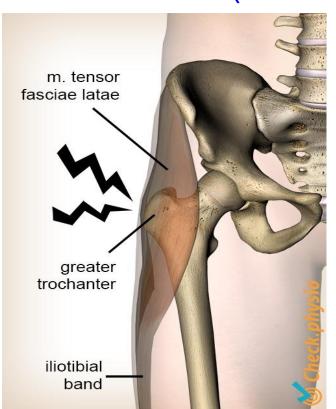
### Hip-Spine Syndrome



- Definitions
- Patho-physiology
- Simple one clear source of disability
- Complex no clear source of disability

Devin et al, J Am Acad Orthop Surg 2012

# Greater Trochanter Pain Syndrome (GTPS)



- Definitions
- Patho-physiology
- Prevalence

   10-25% of population-higher in elderly
   second leading cause
   of adult hip pain
- Risk factors
  - Older, female, ITB pain, obesity and LBP

Williams BS, 2009, Tortolani PJ 2002, Gordon EJ 1961, Segal NA 2007, Stephens MB 2008

# Differential Diagnosis

#### **Neuropathy**

Diabetic neuropathy

Hypothyroidism

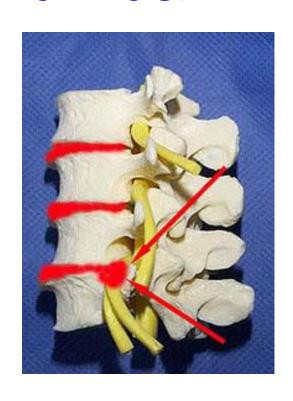
Vit B12, Vit B1 and Folic acid

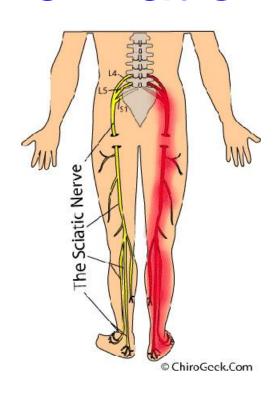


**Cervical and/or Dorsal Spinal Stenosis** 



### **Lumbar Disc Herniation**









#### CLINICAL GUIDELINE

#### Noninvasive Treatments for Acute, Subacute, and Chronic Low Back Pain: A Clinical Practice Guideline From the American College of Physicians

Amir Qaseem, MD, PhD, MHA; Timothy J. Wilt, MD, MPH; Robert M. McLean, MD; and Mary Ann Forciea, MD; for the Clinical Guidelines Committee of the American College of Physicians\*

**Description:** The American College of Physicians (ACP) developed this guideline to present the evidence and provide clinical recommendations on noninvasive treatment of low back pain.

Methods: Using the ACP grading system, the committee based these recommendations on a systematic review of randomized, controlled trials and systematic reviews published through April 2015 on noninvasive pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic treatments for low back pain. Updated searches were performed through November 2016. Clinical outcomes evaluated included reduction or elimination of low back pain, improvement in back-specific and overall function, improvement in health-related quality of life, reduction in work disability and return to work, global improvement, number of back pain episodes or time between episodes, patient satisfaction, and adverse effects.

Target Audience and Patient Population: The target audience for this guideline includes all clinicians, and the target patient population includes adults with acute, subacute, or chronic low back pain.

Recommendation 1: Given that most patients with acute or subacute low back pain improve over time regardless of treatment, clinicians and patients should select nonpharmacologic treatment with superficial heat (moderate-quality evidence), massage, acupuncture, or spinal manipulation (low-quality evidence). If pharmacologic treatment is desired, clinicians and patients should select nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or skeletal muscle relaxants (moderate-quality evidence). (Grade: strong

Recommendation 2: For patients with chronic low back pain, clinicians and patients should initially select nonpharmacologic treatment with exercise, multidisciplinary rehabilitation, acupuncture, mindfulness-based stress reduction (moderate-quality evidence), tai chi, yoga, motor control exercise, progressive relaxation, electromyography biofeedback, low-level laser therapy, operant therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, or spinal manipulation (low-quality evidence). (Grade: strong recommendation)

Recommendation 3: In patients with chronic low back pain who have had an inadequate response to nonpharmacologic therapy, clinicians and patients should consider pharmacologic treatment with nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs as first-line therapy, or tramadol or duloxetine as second-line therapy. Clinicians should only consider opioids as an option in patients who have failed the aforementioned treatments and only if the potential benefits outweigh the risks for individual patients and after a discussion of known risks and realistic benefits with patients. (Grade: weak recommendation, moderate-quality evidence)

Ann Intern Med. doi:10.7326/M16-2367 Annals.org
For author affiliations, see end of text.
This article was published at Annals.org on 14 February 2017.

ow back pain is one of the most common reasons for physician visits in the United States. Most Americans have experienced low back pain, and approximately one quarter of U.S. adults reported having low back pain lasting at least 1 day in the past 3 months (1). Low back pain is associated with high costs, including those related to health care and indirect costs from

sponding anatomical or radiographic abnormalities. Acute back pain is defined as lasting less than 4 weeks, subacute back pain lasts 4 to 12 weeks, and chronic back pain lasts more than 12 weeks. Radicular low back pain results in lower extremity pain, paresthesia, and/or

#### Summary of recommendations

#### Initiation and Dosing of Opioids in Patients with Chronic Noncancer Pain

Recommendation 1: When considering therapy for patients with chronic non-cancer pain

Strong Recommendation

We recommend optimization of non-opioid pharmacotherapy and non-pharmacological therapy, rather than a trial of opioids

Recommendation 2: For patients with chronic noncancer pain, without current or past substance use disorder and without other active psychiatric disorders, who have persistent problematic pain despite optimized nonopioid therapy

Weak Recommendation

We suggest adding a trial of opioids rather than continued therapy without opioids.

By a trial of opioids, we mean initiation, titration, and monitoring of response, with discontinuation of opioids if important improvement in pain or function is not achieved. The studies that identified substance use disorder as a risk factor for adverse outcomes characterized the conditions as alcohol abuse and dependence, and narcotic abuse and dependence, and sometimes referred to ICD-9 diagnoses. The mental illnesses identified in studies as risk factors for adverse outcomes were generally anxiety and depression, including ICD-9 definitions, as well as "psychiatric diagnosis", "mood disorder", and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Recommendation 3: For patients with chronic noncancer pain with an active substance use disorder

Strong Recommendation

AGAINST

We recommend against the use of opioids

Clinicians should facilitate treatment of the underlying substance use disorders, if not yet addressed. The studies that identified substance use disorder as a risk factor for adverse outcomes characterized the conditions as alcohol abuse and dependence, and narcotic abuse and dependence, and sometimes referred to ICD-9 diagnoses.

	and visual disturbances.	
	dence does not support the use of	omized controlled trials that have using gabapentin or pregabalin in "the authors say. "The existing evi-
Qaseem A et al. Noninvasive treatments for acute, subacute, and chronic low back pain: A clinical practice guideline from the American College of Physicians, <i>Annals of Internal Medicine</i> , 2017; 166(7):514–30; http://annals.org/aim/article/2603228/noninvasivetreatments-acute-subacute-chroniclowback-pain-clinical-practice.	No evidence to support the use of ant chronic back pain.	ciconvulsants in acute, subacute, or
RCT, randomized controlled trial.		
The BackLetter®	102	Volume 33, Number 9, 2018

Table I. Recent Reviews of the Evidence on Anticonvulsants for Back and Radicular Pain

pain or lumbar radicular pain."

Only eight RCTs met their inclusion criteria.

relief," according to the reviewers.

**Findings** 

"Most comparisons showed no benefit on pain or disability," the review

The overall conclusion? "Gabapentinoids are ineffective for low back

"In 3 studies comparing gabapentin to placebo, gabapentin showed no

significant improvement of pain; and in the 3 studies comparing pre-

gabalin to other analgesics, pregabalin actually fared worse in pain

Adverse events were common, especially dizziness, fatigue, confusion,

noted. Gabapentinoids were associated with increased adverse events.

Study

190(26):E786-93.

Enke O et al., Anticonvulsants for low back pain: A

systematic review and meta-analysis. CMAJ, 2018;

Shanthanna H et al., Benefits and safety of gabapenti-

review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled

noids in chronic low back pain: A systematic

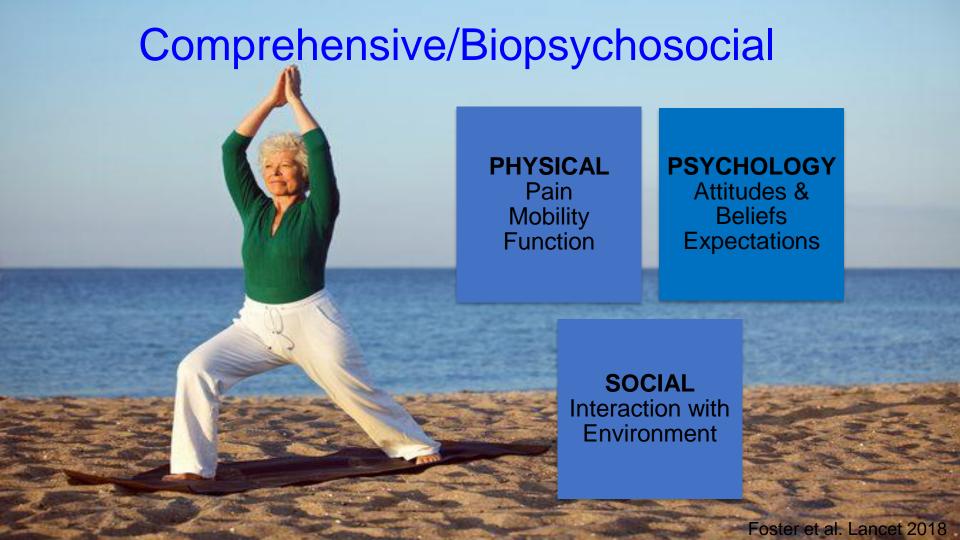
trials. PLOS Medicine, 2017; 14(8):e1002369;

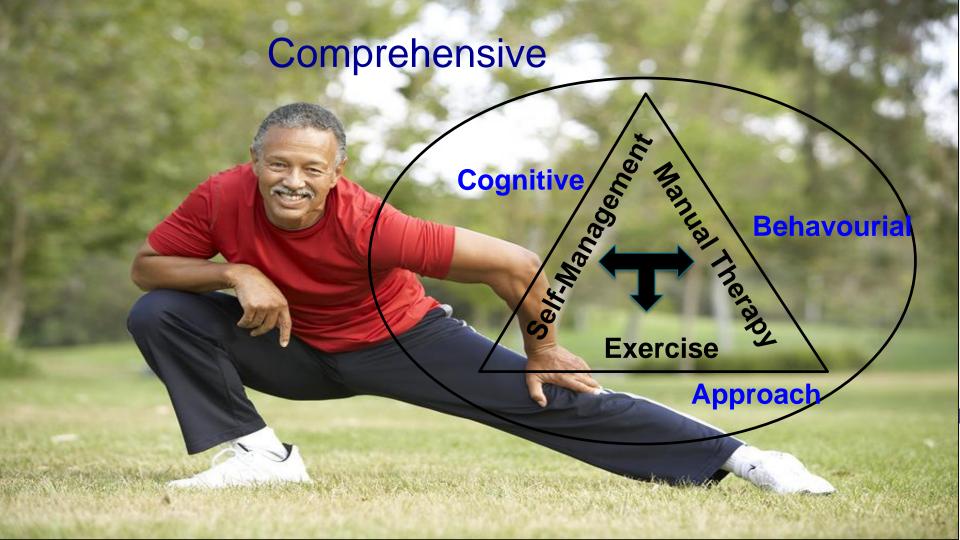
article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002369.

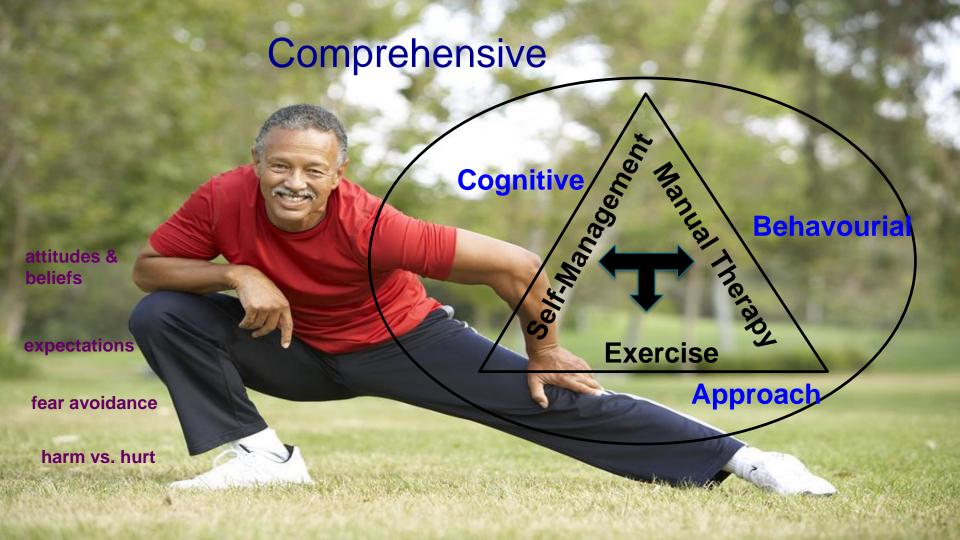
http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/

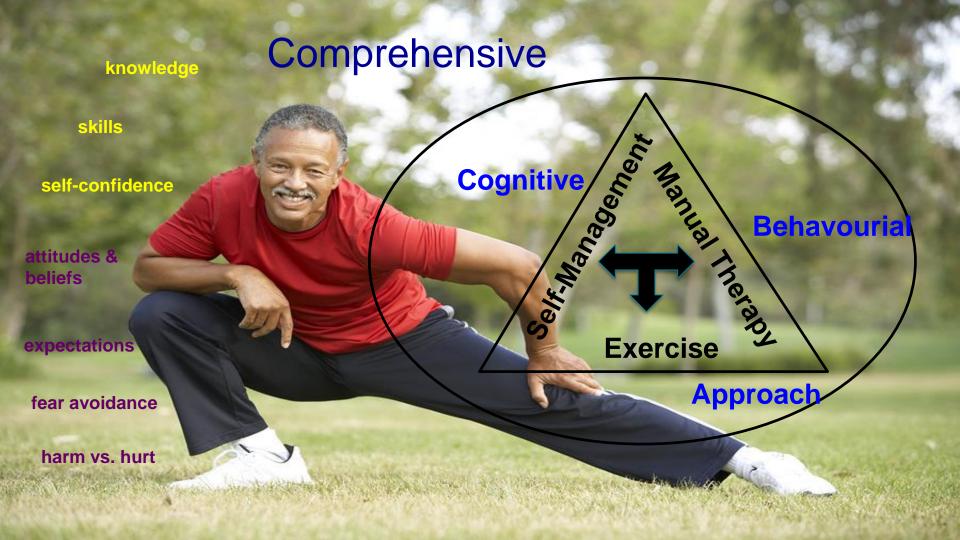


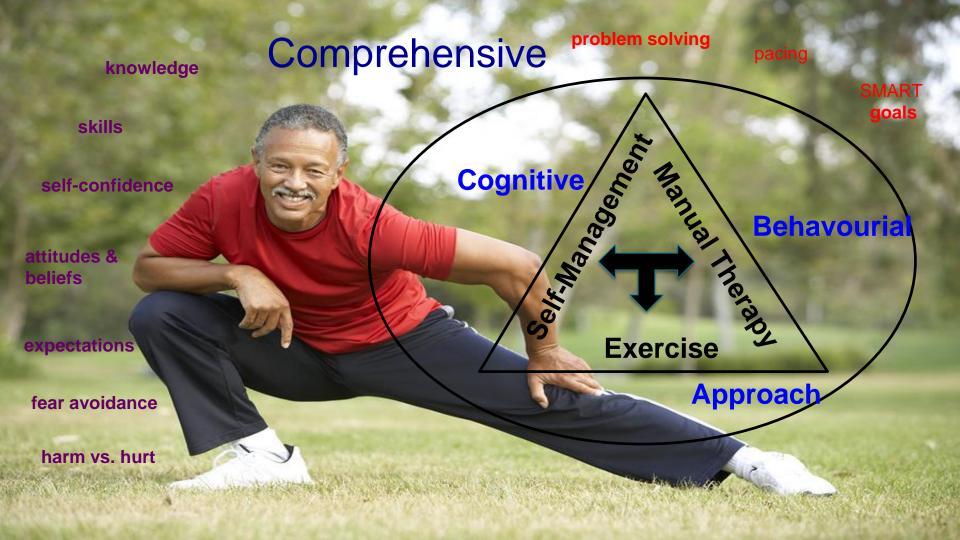


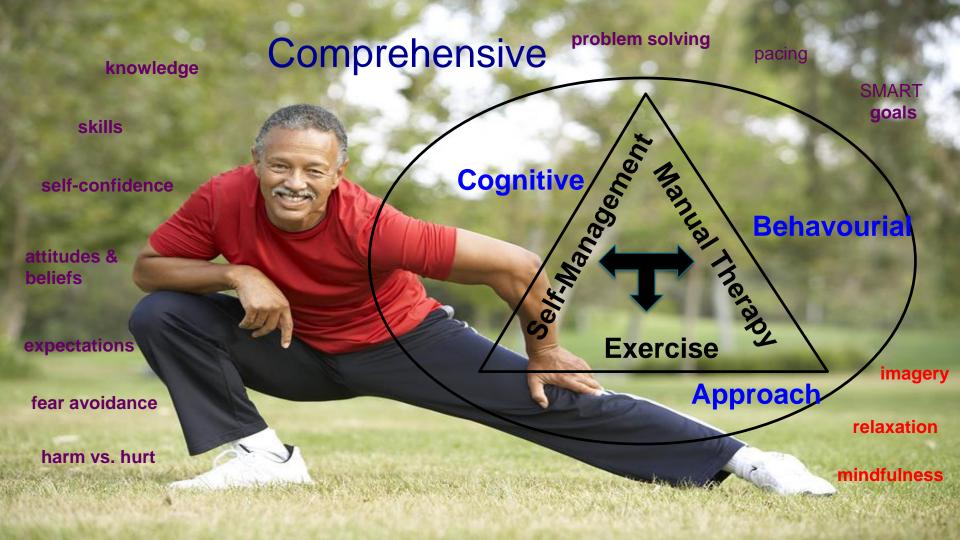


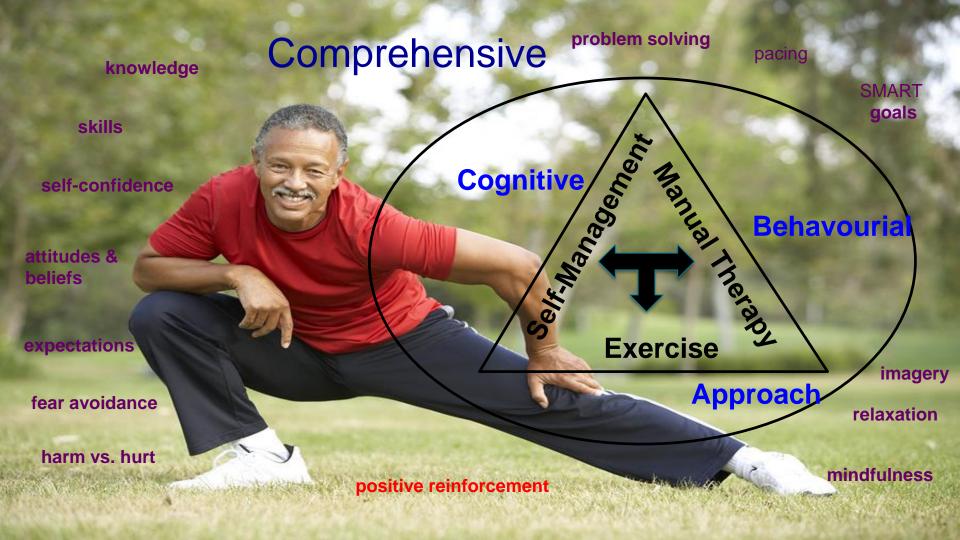


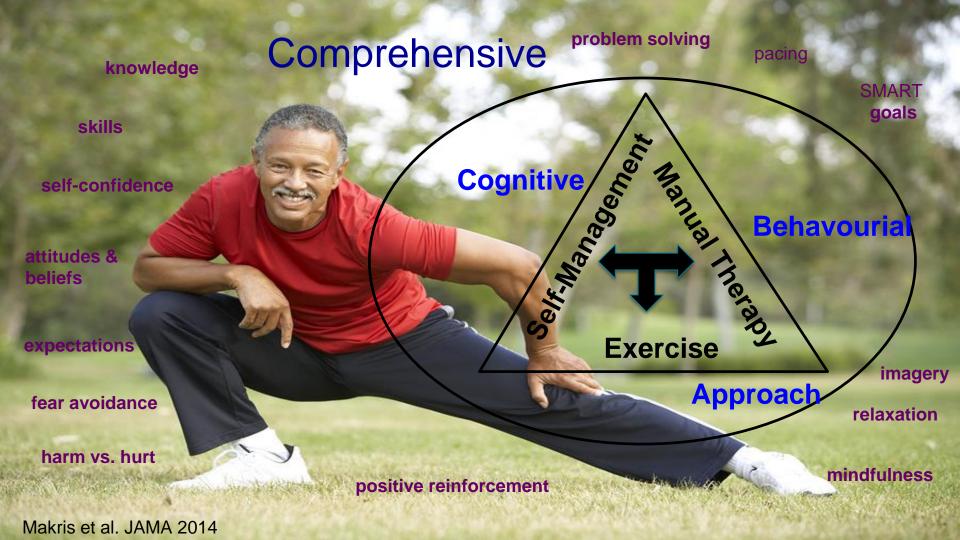












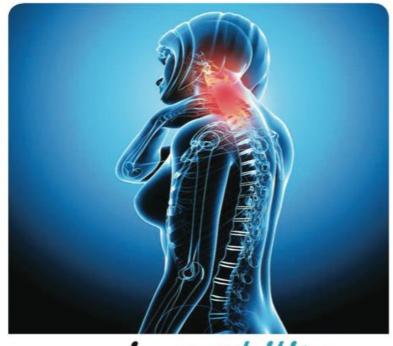




# Translating Exercises

Activities of Daily Living

**Recreational Activities** 

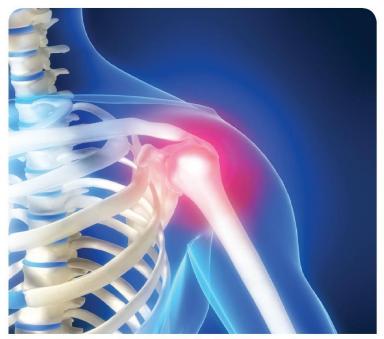


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**Boot Camp Program** 

## PERSISTENT NECK PAIN





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## PERSISTENT SHOULDER PAIN

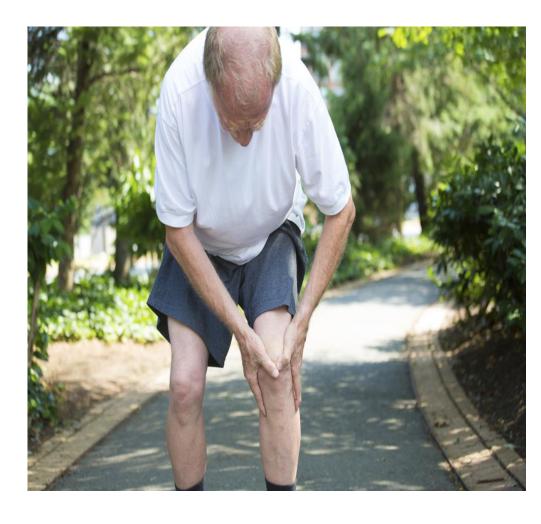






**Boot Camp Program** 

# **KNEE**OSTEOARTHRITIS



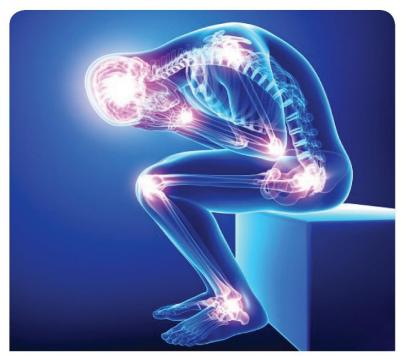


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Boot Camp Program

## **HIP OSTEOARTHRITIS**







**Boot Camp Program** 

#### **FIBROMYALGIA**

Dr. Carlo Ammendolia

## Fibromyalgia: The Facts

Fibromyalgia affects up to 2% of people worldwide.

80%-90% of those afflicted are women.

Fibromyalgia can present early, but is more common during middle age.

Those with fibromyalgia often suffer from abnormalities in stage 4 deep sleep.

Fibromyalgia commonly co-presents with IBS, RLS, memory deficits, and migraines.

The average patient does not receive an accurate diagnosis until 5 years after onset of symptoms.

Sources: http://www.niams.nih.gov/hi/topics/fibromyalgia/fibrofs.htm#fib\_i and http://www.fmaware.org/fminfo/brochure.htm



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Boot Camp Program

## LUMBAR SPINAL STENOSIS

Dr. Carlo Ammendolia

Figure 1: Lumbar Spinal Stenosis (LSS) Conus medullaris and cauda equina Lumbar spine Narrowed spinal Bone Herniated intervertebral Herniated intervertebral discs Compressed Narrowed (stenotic) nerve root spinal canal

# Boot Camp Program Lumbar Spinal Stenosis



- Self management
- Self monitoring
- Flexion exercises
- Strength training
- Manual therapy
- Body re-positioning
- 2x w- 6weeks

Cognitive Behavoural Approach Emphasis on standing/walking/functional abilities



#### Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

journal homepage: www.archives-pmr.org

Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation 2018;99:2408-19



#### ORIGINAL RESEARCH

### Comprehensive Nonsurgical Treatment Versus Selfdirected Care to Improve Walking Ability in Lumbar Spinal Stenosis: A Randomized Trial



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#### Abstract

**Objectives:** To compare the effectiveness of a comprehensive nonsurgical training program to a self-directed approach in improving walking ability in lumbar spinal stenosis (LSS).

## **Intervention & Control**

Comprehensive (Boot Camp Program) vs.

Self Directed Program (Control)

# **Comprehensive Boot Camp Program**























- 2x w- 6weeks
- Manual therapy
- Home flexion exercises
- Home Strength training
- Self management
- Self monitoring
- Body re-positioning
- Emphasis standing & walking abilities

# Self-Directed Boot Camp Program



















- One educational session
- Home flexion exercises
- Home Strength training
- Self management
- Self monitoring
- Body re-positioning
- Emphasis standing & walking abilities

## **Outcomes & Analysis**

### **Primary Outcome**

- Self-Paced Walk Test
  - -mean difference in distance



#### **Secondary Outcomes**

- ZCQS, ZCQF, ODI, ODI walk, NPS back, NPS leg, SF36

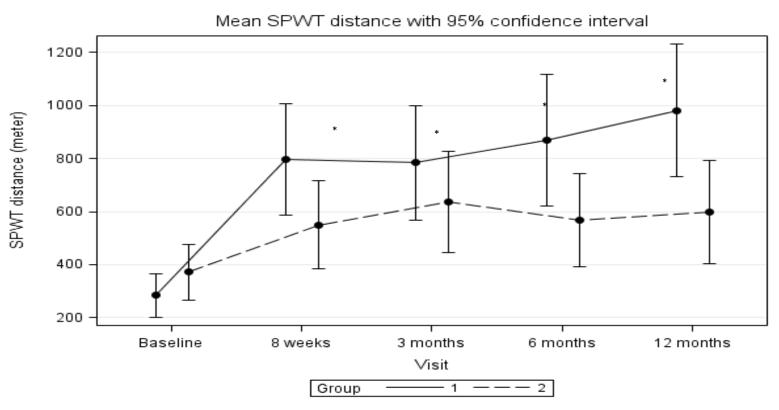
#### Follow-up

- 8w, 3m, 6m and 12m

#### **Responder Analysis**

 $- \ge 30\%$  and  $\ge 50\%$  improvement in SPWT

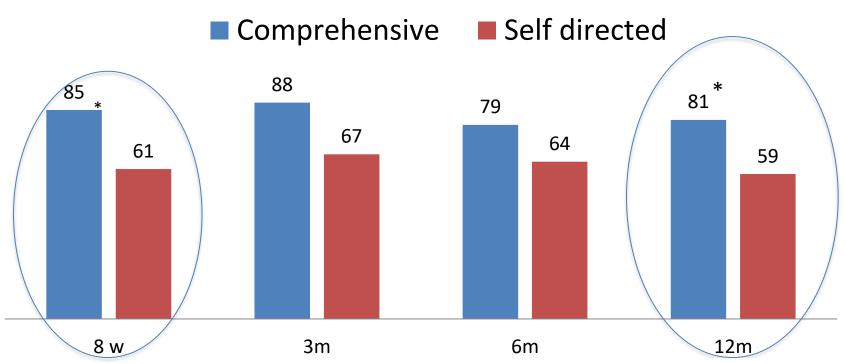
## **Primary Outcome (SPWT)**



Group 1 = comprehensive, Group 2 = self-directed

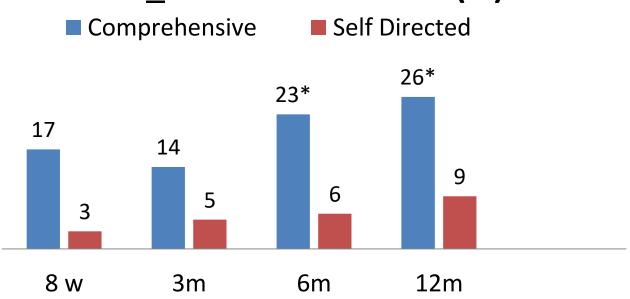
## **Primary Outcome**

## > 30% Improvement SPWT Distance (%)



## **Secondary Outcomes**

## ≥ 30 Minutes SPWT (%)



## Summary

- Comprehensive Program- Superior benefit
  - walking ability, symptoms and function
  - large magnitude and long-term sustainability of the benefit
  - Highly relevant findings in this population with limited walking ability





Original Investigation | Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

#### Comparative Clinical Effectiveness of Nonsurgical Treatment Methods in Patients With Lumbar Spinal Stenosis A Randomized Clinical Trial

Michael J. Schneider, DC, PhD; Carlo Ammendolia, DC, PhD; Donald R. Murphy, DC; Ronald M. Glick, MD; Elizabeth Hile, PhD, PT; Dana L. Tudorascu, PhD; Sally C. Morton, PhD; Clair Smith, MS; Charity G. Patterson, PhD, MSPH; Sara R. Piva, PhD, PT

#### Abstract

**IMPORTANCE** Lumbar spinal stenosis (LSS) is the most common reason for spine surgery in older US adults. There is an evidence gap about nonsurgical LSS treatment options.

**OBJECTIVE** To explore the comparative clinical effectiveness of 3 nonsurgical interventions for patients with LSS.

**DESIGN, SETTING, AND PARTICIPANTS** Three-arm randomized clinical trial of 3 years' duration (November 2013 to June 2016). Analysis began in August 2016. All interventions were delivered during 6 weeks with follow-up at 2 months and 6 months at an outpatient research clinic. Patients older than 60 years with LSS were recruited from the general public. Eligibility required anatomical evidence of central canal and/or lateral recess stenosis (magnetic resonance imaging/computed tomography) and clinical symptoms associated with LSS (neurogenic claudication; less symptoms with flexion). Analysis was intention to treat.

INTERVENTIONS Medical care, group exercise, and manual therapy/individualized exercise. Medical care consisted of medications and/or epidural injections provided by a physiatrist. Group exercise classes were supervised by fitness instructors in senior community centers. Manual therapy/individualized exercise consisted of spinal mobilization, stretches, and strength training provided by chiropractors and physical therapists.

**MAIN OUTCOMES AND MEASURES** Primary outcomes were between-group differences at 2 months in self-reported symptoms and physical function measured by the Swiss Spinal Stenosis questionnaire (score range, 12-55) and a measure of walking capacity using the self-paced walking test (meters walked for 0 to 30 minutes).

RESULTS A total of 259 participants (mean [SD] age, 72.4 [7.8] years; 137 women [52.9%]) were allocated to medical care (88 [34.0%]), group exercise (84 [32.4%]), or manual therapy/individualized exercise (87 [33.6%]). Adjusted between-group analyses at 2 months showed manual therapy/individualized exercise had greater improvement of symptoms and physical function compared with medical care (-2.0; 95% CI, -3.6 to -0.4) or group exercise (-2.4; 95% CI, -4.1 to -0.8). Manual therapy/individualized exercise had a greater proportion of responders (≥ 30%)

#### **Key Points**

Question What is the comparative effectiveness of 3 types of nonsurgical treatment options for patients with lumbar spinal stenosis (LSS)?

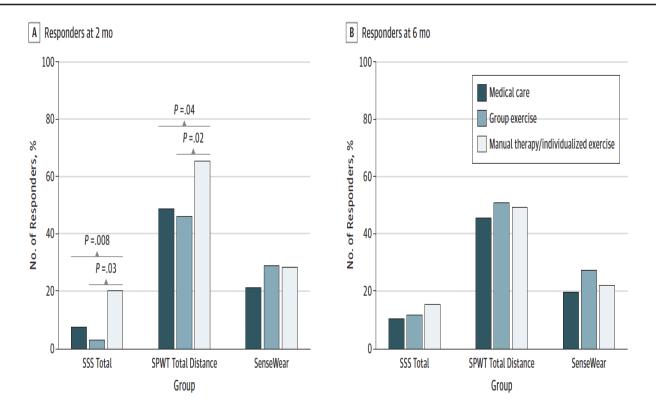
Findings In a randomized clinical trial of 259 patients with LSS, all groups (medical care, group exercise, and manual therapy/individualized exercise) showed improvement in self-reported pain/function and walking capacity at 2 months and 6 months. The manual therapy group had a greater proportion of responders at 2 months, but there were no between-group differences in responder rates at 6 months.

Meaning Although LSS is a chronic degenerative condition, patients with LSS can show improvement in walking capacity with nonsurgical approaches.

#### Supplemental content

Author affiliations and article information are listed at the end of this article.

Figure 2. Responder Analyses (≥30% Improvement From Baseline) by Group and Time



Schneider et al, JAMA Networks 2019



## Clinical Outcomes in Neurogenic Claudication Using a Multimodal Program for Lumbar Spinal Stenosis: A Study of 49 Patients With Prospective Long-term Follow-up

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#### **ABSTRACT**

**Objective:** The purpose of this study was to assess long-term outcomes of a 6-week multimodal program (manual therapy, exercises, and self-management strategies) in patients with neurogenic claudication due to degenerative lumbar spinal stenosis.

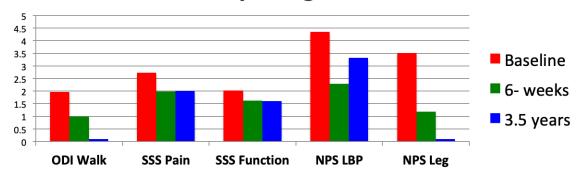
**Methods:** This study evaluated 49 patients with neurogenic claudication who completed a 6-week multimodal program between 2010 and 2013. Outcomes included Oswestry Disability Index (ODI), Zurich Claudication Questionnaire (ZCQ), and Numeric Rating Scale. Mean differences, paired *t* tests, and the Wilcoxon rank-sum test were used to compare outcomes at baseline, 6 weeks, and long-term follow-up.

**Results:** Twenty-three patients completed the follow-up questionnaire (47% response rate). Median follow-up was 3.6 years (interquartile range: 3.3-4.6). The mean age was 73.5 years (standard deviation: 8.5). Between baseline and long-term follow-up, there were statistically significant and clinically important improvements in disability (ODI: -23.7 [95% confidence interval (CI): -15.7 to -31.6]; ODI walking item: -1.96 [95% CI: -1.34 to -2.57]; ZCQ function

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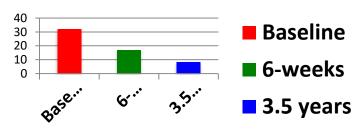
# Retrospective Study Findings

## **LSS Boot Camp Long-Term Outcomes**



\*\*All differences in outcomes were both clinically and statistically significant at 3.5 years except NPS LBP

#### **Oswestry Disability Index**



Chow et al, JMPT in press

# Agenda

Definitions/prevalence & burden/complexity

Key principles/components for assessment & management

Practical tips for management

New evidence for effectiveness









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