

Journal Citations

Dr Ma Hon Ming

- 1) Mao J. Opioid-induced abnormal pain sensitivity: implications in clinical opioid therapy. Pain, 100(3), 2002: 213 –7.**

“ This review address the issue of poor analgesic response to opioids. Recent evidence suggested that opioid-induced pain sensitivity should be considered if an opioid fails to achieve expected analgesia and/or an unexplained pain exacerbation occurs after a period of effective opioid treatment. Thus, stepping up opioid dose in the presence of ineffective opioid therapy is not always the answer. Less opioid can be more effective in some cases. Paradoxical pain sensitivity (hyperalgesia, allodynia) may be contributory to behavioral manifestation of apparent opioid tolerance or in former addicts maintained on methadone treatment. There is growing evidence that the mediating neural mechanisms involve cellular and neural circuits changes that interact with mechanisms in development of pathological pain, and thus preventable. Apart from the “less is more” strategy, other accompanying approaches include opioid rotation +/- non-opioid adjuvants and combined use of an opioid and an NMDA antagonist.”

- 2) Adams KE, et al. Ethical Considerations of Complementary and Alternative Medical Therapies in Conventional Medical Settings. Ann Intern Med, 137(8), 2002:660-4.**

“ Two cases were presented that illustrate the ethical challenges arising from use of CAM therapies in USA. Risk-benefit analysis of CAM versus conventional medical treatment include consideration of severity & acuteness of illness, curability with conventional treatment, degree of invasiveness, associated toxicities and side effects of conventional treatment, quality of evidence of safety and efficacy of the desired CAM, degree of understanding of the risks and benefits of CAM, knowledge and voluntary acceptance of those risks by patients and persistence of patients' intentions to use CAM. Application of the framework may help palliative care providers develop a treatment plan in the unique circumstances of each case.”