



***Pain Management Issues  
in the ED in 2004***

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**Key Learning Points**

- Pain is the most common single reason for emergency department visits. Patients in pain present to the ED with relatively intense pain, with severity on the order of post-operative pain.
- The amount of emergency medicine research related to pain is increasing rapidly and pain management practices are undergoing rapid change.
- There are multiple influences on emergency medicine pain-related practice, research, and policy. Our active involvement with the institutions that advance these interests is necessary for optimal patient and specialty outcomes.
- Our specialty must move from a reactive to a proactive stance concerning the challenge of pain management.
- Emergency medicine should foster collaboration between our specialty and traditional pain medicine bodies.

**Clinical Questions**

- What are key influences on emergency medicine pain management and research?
- How can national pain management initiatives benefit our specialty?
- What pain research strengths and weaknesses characterize our specialty?
- How can we increase opportunities for emergency medicine clinicians, researchers and policy makers in this area?
- How can we disseminate new information related to ED pain management?

**Emergency Medicine Opportunities**

- Involvement in the development of ACEP Clinical Policies
- Multicenter research network involvement
- Membership in the American Pain Society
- The American Pain Society Residents' Program
- New Mayday Pain & Society Fellowship of The Mayday Fund

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