Integrating Complementary and Integrative Health (CIH) therapies into US Hospitals:

The Role of Practice Based Research in Guiding the Field

Jeffery A Dusek, PhD

World Congress Integrative Medicine & Health 2017
Berlin Germany
May 5, 2017

What is known about current use of CIH in the US?

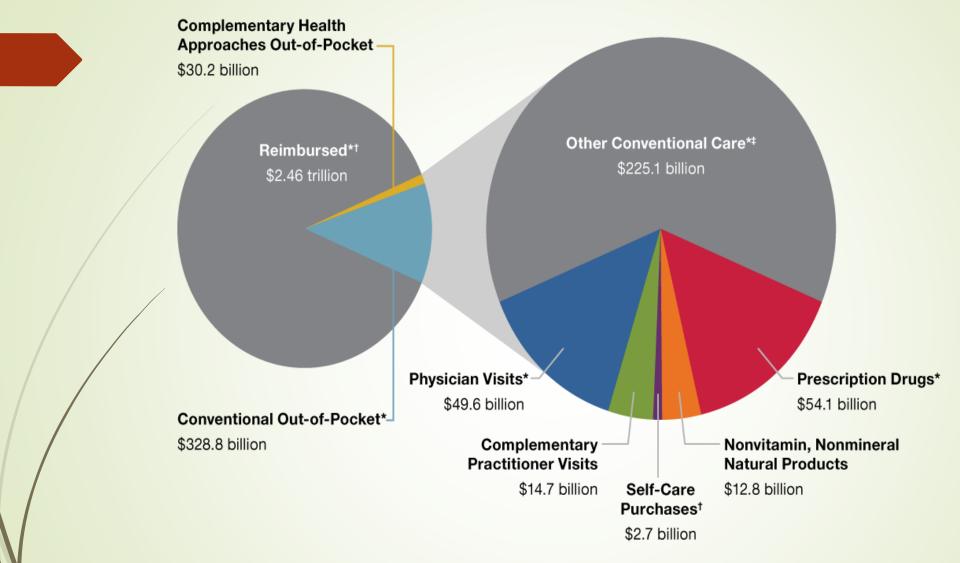
- National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)- 2012
- 34,500 respondents corresponds to 226 million American adults
- 32.3% report using some form of CIH (73 million)
- **2007-35.5%**
- **2**002-33.2%

Clarke TC, Black LI, Stussman BJ, et al. Trends in the use of complementary health approaches among adults: United States, 2002–2012. National health statistics reports; no 79. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2015.

NHIS Survey 2012 - Costs

- ■59 million adults (26%) spend out of pocket.
- ■\$30.2 Billion USD.
- 9% of all out of pocket spending on healthcare

Nahin RL, Barnes PM, Stussman BJ. Expenditures on complementary health approaches: United States, 2012. (433KB PDF) National Health Statistics Reports. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2016.



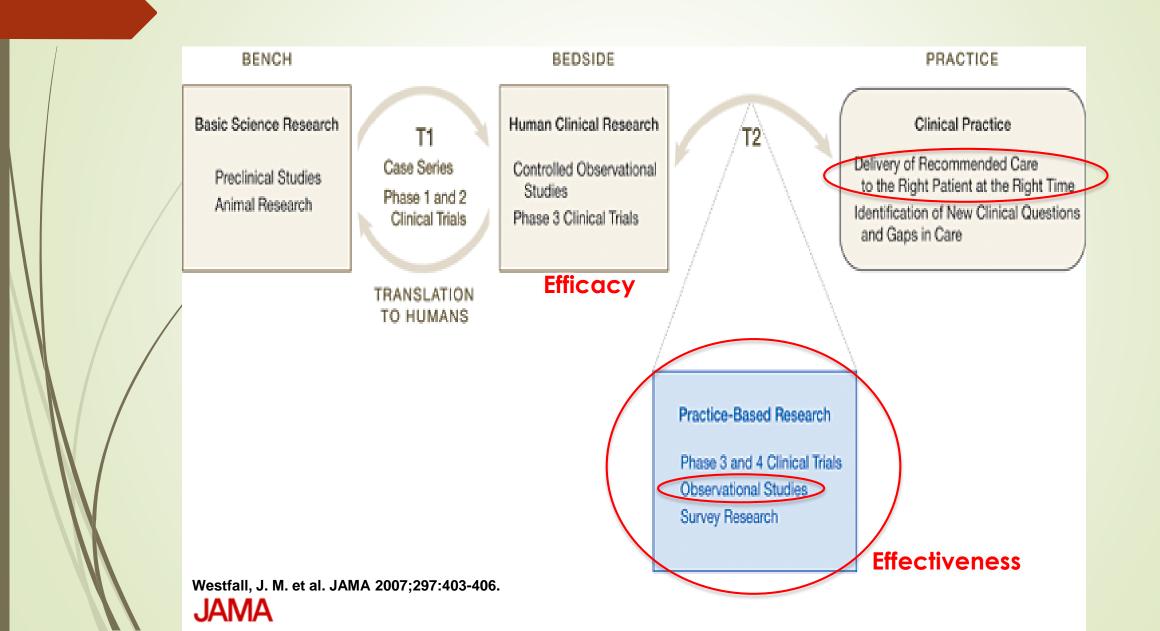
Nahin RL, Barnes PM, Stussman BJ. <u>Expenditures on complementary health</u> <u>approaches: United States, 2012.</u> (433KB PDF) *National Health Statistics Reports*. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2016.

NHIS Survey 2012 - Pain

- 126 million adults (56%) report some type of pain in prior 3 months.
- →40 million (18%) have severe pain.
- ■25 million adults (11%) report daily pain.

Nahin RL. <u>Estimates of pain prevalence and severity in adults: United States, 2012.</u> *Journal of Pain.* 2015;16(8):769-780.

Observational Research



What is Practiced-based research?

Practice-based research occurs in the office, clinic or hospital, where patients generally receive clinical care.

Practice-based research can

- demonstrate whether interventions with proven efficacy are truly effective and sustainable when provided in realworld setting; and
- provide the "laboratory" for testing system improvements to maximize the number of patients who benefit from medical discovery.

Two examples of PBR in practice

Integrative Medicine provided at Abbott Northwestern Hospital (ANW)

BraveNet Practice Based Research Network

Effectiveness of CIH

- CIH provided at Abbott Northwestern Hospital (ANW)
 - 630 bed tertiary care hospital
 - Penny George Institute (PGI) started providing IM services in 2003
 - 10,000 IM sessions annually.
 - Average 31 minutes per session
 - 1.5 sessions per hospital admission

CIH Care and Practitioners

Patients receive individualized CIH including:

- Acupuncture, acupressure
- therapeutic medical massage, reflexology
- mind/body therapies (e.g. relaxation response)
- energy healing (e.g. Reiki, healing touch)
- music therapy
- aromatherapy

■ 15 practitioners (11.5 FTEs) (circa 2016)

- 6.3 FTE massage therapists
- 3.5 FTE acupuncturists
- 0.9 FTE music therapist
- 0.8 FTE Nursing

CIH: Process

- Physician or nurse referrals via EPIC electronic health record (EHR)
 - AQ must be referred by MD
- Triage Meeting of CIH providers
- ► EHR review by CIH provider
- CIH Treatment Session (24-36 hrs)
 - Intake
 - Baseline data collection (e.g., pain, anxiety, nausea, coping)
 - CIH therapy
 - Follow-up data collection
- CIH provider documents the results

National Institute of Health grant: 2011-2016

Project Number: 5R01AT006518-03 Contact PI / Project Leader: DUSEK, JEFFERY A

Title: EFFECT OF COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE ON PAIN Awardee Organization: ALLINA HEALTH SYSTEM

AMONG INPATIENTS

Abstract Text:

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): Effective and safe pain management is a major health priority for the US healthcare system. Pharmaceutical interventions remain the primary approach to pain management, despite their well documented risk of adverse events, potential for addiction, and adverse impact on recovery if used excessively. Nowhere is this more evident than in the post-operative period where roughly 80% of patients report moderate to severe pain after surgery even after receiving pharmaceutical interventions. In inpatient settings, finding an effective non-pharmacologic intervention to augment narcotic medications would be a significant benefit. National surveys indicate that complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) interventions are currently used by 15% of American hospitals. Most often, these therapies are employed to address specific unmet clinical needs, the most frequent of which is pain. Eleven clinical trials have demonstrated the efficacy of CAM therapies to reduce pain (short- and long-term) in hospitalized patients along with traditional pharmaceutical interventions. Generating additional evidence of the effectiveness of these therapies for pain relief would advance knowledge and potentially affect practice patterns. a preliminary study, we retrospectively studied 1,837 patients who received CAM therapies at Abbott Northwestern Hospital We found an average reduction in immediate pain of 56% and roughly 33% reported complete pain relief after the initial CAM visit. We recognize inadequacies of this study that limit both our knowledge of how adjunctive CAM therapies are implemented in hospitals and the effect of various CAM therapies on pain management, which can only be answered with prospective data collection. Using a prospective, observational design, we propose a large scale study to build on this exploratory work. It will document predictors of CAM referral, service delivery, and therapy selection for pain management. It will also examine the impact of CAM therapies as adjuncts to traditional interventions on short and long-term changes in pain across clinical groups in a hospital setting. The setting for this study of CAM is the Penny George Institute for Health and Healing at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. The George Institute is uniquely suited for this work as it is the nation's largest inpatient CAM program serving over 19,000 patients since 2004. The proposed study has 3 aims: 1) quantitatively describe a model for delivering CAM therapies to understand selection of patients and CAM therapies for pain management, 2) examine the effects of selected CAM therapies on immediate change in pain, and 3) examine the effects of selected CAM therapies on duration of pain change. Positive results from this study will assist hospitals in the integration of usual care and CAM therapy for pain reduction. Findings may also drive future research on the cost effectiveness of these therapies for pain management, as well as impact on patient outcomes such as length of stay and use of narcotics.

R01 Aims:

 Aim 1: Understand selection of patients and IM therapies (n=~6,000 admissions)

Aim 2: Examine the effects of therapies on immediate change in pain (n=~6,000 admissions)

 Aim 3: Examine the effects on <u>duration of pain</u> <u>management</u> (n=3,575 admissions)

Status of NIH R01

- Assembled a database: 7/09 to 12/12
 - Electronic Health Record (EHR) flowsheet developed
 - Focus on certain clinical populations.
 - Total joint replacement, oncology, and cardiology.
 - Proof of concept: acupuncture in the Emergency Dept.
- Study data collection: 7/12 to 12/14
 - Databases undergoing final analyses.
 - Analyses & manuscripts: 2017.

Joint Replacement: Pain Analysis

Pre- to post-IM therapy percent decrease in pain scores

Any	No.	
Treatment		1,977
	Unit Decrease in	
	Pain	-1.91 (-45.2%)
	95% CI	(1.83-1.99)
	p-value	< 0.001

Oncology: Pain and Anxiety Analysis

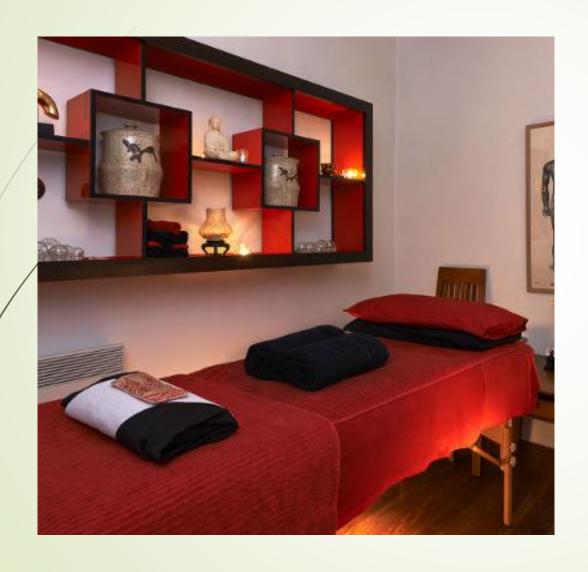
	Pre- to post-IM therapy change in pain and anxiety score		
	No. Pain Observations	1,514	
	% Change in Pain	-46.9	
/	p-value	< 0.001	
	No. Anxiety Observations	1,074	
	% Change in Anxiety	-56.1	
	p-value	< 0.001	

Cardiovascular: Pain and Anxiety Analysis

Pre- to post-IM therapy percent decrease in pain and anxiety scores

No. Pain Obs		5,981
	% Decrease in Pain	-46.5
	95% CI	(45.5 - 47.4)
	p-value	< 0.001
No. Anxiety		
Obs		3,109
	% Decrease in	
	Anxiety	-54.8
	95% CI	(53.7 - 55.9)
	p-value	< 0.001

Acupuncture in an Outpatient Clinic



- Spacious
- Relaxed
- QuietInstrumentalMusic
- Softly Lit
- Pleasant Smelling

Pilot: Acupuncture in the Emergency Room



- Cramped
- Stressful
- Loud Screaming and Beeping
- Brightly Lit
- OffensiveSmelling

Acupuncture in Emergency Dept

Pre- to post-treatment percent decrease in pain scores

AQ + Pain	No. Obs	167
Medications	Unit and % decrease	- 2.40 (-36.6%)
(pre 7.1)	p-value	< 0.001
AQ Alone	No. Obs	143
	Unite and %	
	decrease	-2.53 (-33.1%)
(pre 7.6)	p-value	< 0.001

Acupuncture in Emergency Dept

Pre- to post-treatment percent decrease in pain scores

AQ + Pain	No. Obs	167
Medications	Unit and % decrease	- 2.40 (-36.6%)
(pre 7.1)	p-value	< 0.001
AQ Alone	No. Obs	143
	Unite and %	
	decrease	-2.53 (-33.1%)
(pre 7.6)	p-value	< 0.001

- 62% of "Acupuncture Only" patients were discharged from the ED without receiving any pain medications
- 25% received an opioid medication
- 13% received an analgesic medication

Publications



Pain Medicine 2015; 16: 1195-1203 Wiley Periodicals, Inc.

Acupuncture Provides Short-Term Pain Relief for Patients in a Total Joint Replacement Program

DOI:10.1093/jncimonographs/lgu030

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Johnson et al. BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine 2014, 14:486

Complementary & Alternative Medicine

The effectiveness of integrative medicine interventions on pain and anxiety in cardiovascular inpatients: a practice-based research evaluation

Jill R Johnson^{1*}, Daniel J Crespin², Kristen H Griffin¹, Michael D Finch³, Rachael L Rivard¹, Courtney J Baechler¹ and Jeffery A Dusek

Pain Medicine Advance Access published February 25, 2016

Methods

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Pain Medicine 2016; 0: 1-10



Daniel J. Crespin, MSPH,* Kristen H. Griffin, MA, MPH. Jill R. Johnson, PhD, MPH, Cynthia Miller, RN, LA Michael D. Finch, PhD,§ Rachael L. Rivard, BS,† Scott Anseth, MD, and Jeffery A. Dusek, PhD

Effects of Integrative Medicine on Pain and Anxiety Among **Oncology Inpatients**

Jill R. Johnson, Daniel J. Crespin, Kristen H. Griffin, Michael D. Finch, Jeffery A. Dusek

Correspondence to: Jill R, Johnson, PhD, MPH, Penny George Institute for Health and Healing, 800 East 28th Street, MR 33540, Minneapolis, MN 55407-3799

Background Few studies have investigated the effectiveness of integrative medicine (IM) therapies on pain and anxiety among oncology inpatients.

> Retrospective data obtained from electronic medical records identified patients with an oncology International Classification of Diseases-9 code who were admitted to a large Midwestern hospital between July 1, 2009 and December 31, 2012. Outcomes were change in patient-reported pain and anxiety, rated before and after indi-

vidual IM treatment sessions, using a numeric scale (0-10).

Of 10948 hospital admissions over the study period, 1833 (17%) included IM therapy. Older patients had reduced odds of receiving any IM therapy (odds ratio [OR]: 0.97, 95% confidence interval [95% CI] = 0.96 to 0.98) and females had 63% (OR: 1.63, 95% CI = 1.38 to 1.92) higher odds of receiving any IM therapy compared with males. Moderate (OR: 1.97, 95% CI = 1.61 to 2.41), major (OR: 3.54, 95% CI = 2.88 to 4.35), and extreme (OR: 5.96, 95% CI = 4.71 to 7.56) illness severity were significantly associated with higher odds of receiving IM therapy compared with admissions of minor illness severity. After receiving IM therapy, patients averaged a 46.9% (95% CI = 45.1% to 48.6%, P <.001) reduction in pain and a 56.1% (95% CI = 54.3% to 58.0%, P <.001) reduction in anxiety. Bodywork and traditional Chinese Medicine therapies were most effective for reducing pain, while no significant differences among therapies for reducing anxiety were observed.

Conclusions IM services to oncology inpatients resulted in substantial decreases in pain and anxiety. Observational studies using electronic medical records provide unique information about real-world utilization of IM. Future studies are warranted and should explore potential synergy of opioid analgesics and IM therapy for pain control

J Natl Cancer Inst Monogr 2014;50:330-337

Pain is a common, often debilitating symptom of cancer and a The evidence base for integrative oncology among inpatients

Original Research Article

Acceptability, Adaptation, and Clinical **Outcomes of Acupuncture Provided in the Emergency Department: A Retrospective** Pilot Study

Adam S. Reinstein, MAOM, L.Ac.,* Lauren O. Erickson, MS,* Kristen H. Griffin, MA, MPH,* Rachael L. Rivard, BS,* Christopher E. Kapsner, MD, Michael D. Finch, PhD, and Jeffery A. Dusek

*Integrative Health Research Center, Penny George Institute for Health and Healing, Allina Health, Minneapolis, Minnesota; †Emergency Department, Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis, Minnesota; *Medical Industry Leadership Institute, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

Correspondence to: Adam S. Reinstein, MAOM, L.Ac., Penny George Institute for Health and Healing, 800 East 28th Street, MR 33540, Minneapolis, MN 55407-3799. USA. Tel: (612) 863-8404: Fax: (612) 863-9769: E-mail: adam.reinstein@allina.com.

Funding sources: This work was partially supported by the National Center for Complementary & Alternative Medicine of the National Institutes of Health (grant number R01 AT006518-01 to JD). The work was also supported by the Abbott Northwestern Hospital Foundation. the Rob and Kris Johnson Family Foundation and the

Penny George Institute Foundation. Conflicts of interest: The authors declare no conflicts Design, Observational, retrospective pilot study.

Setting. Abbott Northwestern Hospital ED. Minneapolis, MN.

Methods. Retrospective data was used to identify patients receiving acupuncture in addition to stand-12/31/14. Feasibility was measured by quantifying the utilization of acupuncture in a novel setting and performing limited tests of its efficacy. Patient-reported pain and anxiety scores were collected by the acupuncturist using an 11-point (0-10) numeric rating scale before (pre) and immediately after (post) acupuncture. Efficacy outcomes were change in pain and anxiety scores.

Results. During the study period, 436 patients were referred for acupuncture, 279 of whom were approached by the acupuncturist during their ED visit. Consent for acupuncture was obtained from 89% (248/279). A total of 182 patients, who had a pre-pain score >0 and non-missing anxiety scores, were included in analyses. Of the 52% (94/182) who did not have analgesics before or during the acupuncture session, the average decrease of 2.37 points (95% CI: 1.92, 2.83) was not different (p > 0.05) than the mean decrease of 2.68 points for those receiving analgesics (95% CI 2.21, 3.15). The average pre-anx-

Status of NIH R01

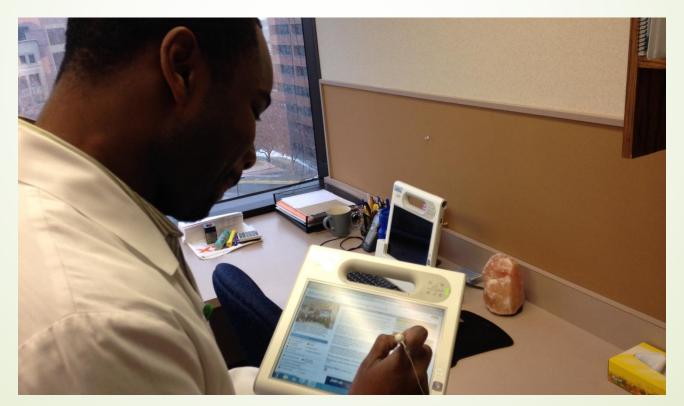
- Assembled a test database: 7/09 to 12/12
 - Electronic Health Record (EHR) flowsheet developed
 - Focus on certain clinical populations.
 - Total joint replacement, oncology, and cardiology.
 - Proof of concept: acupuncture in the Emergency Dept.
- Study data collection: 7/12 to 12/14
 - Databases undergoing final analyses.
 - Analyses & manuscripts: 2016 and 2017.

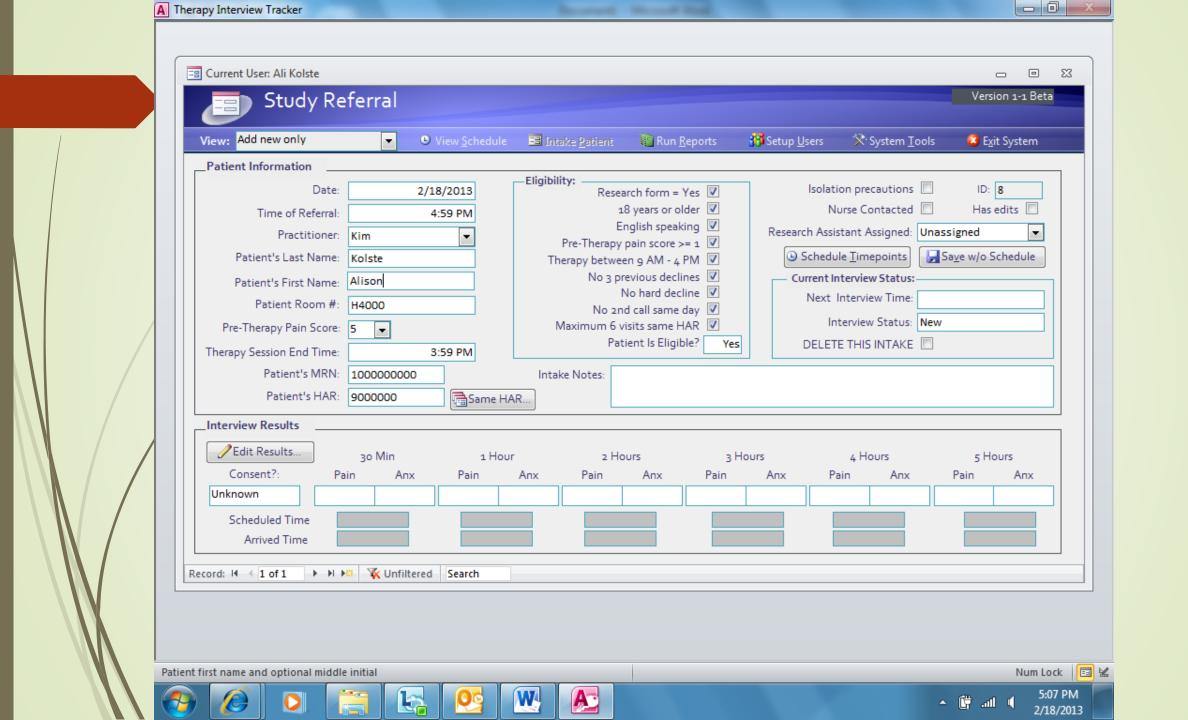
R01 Aims:

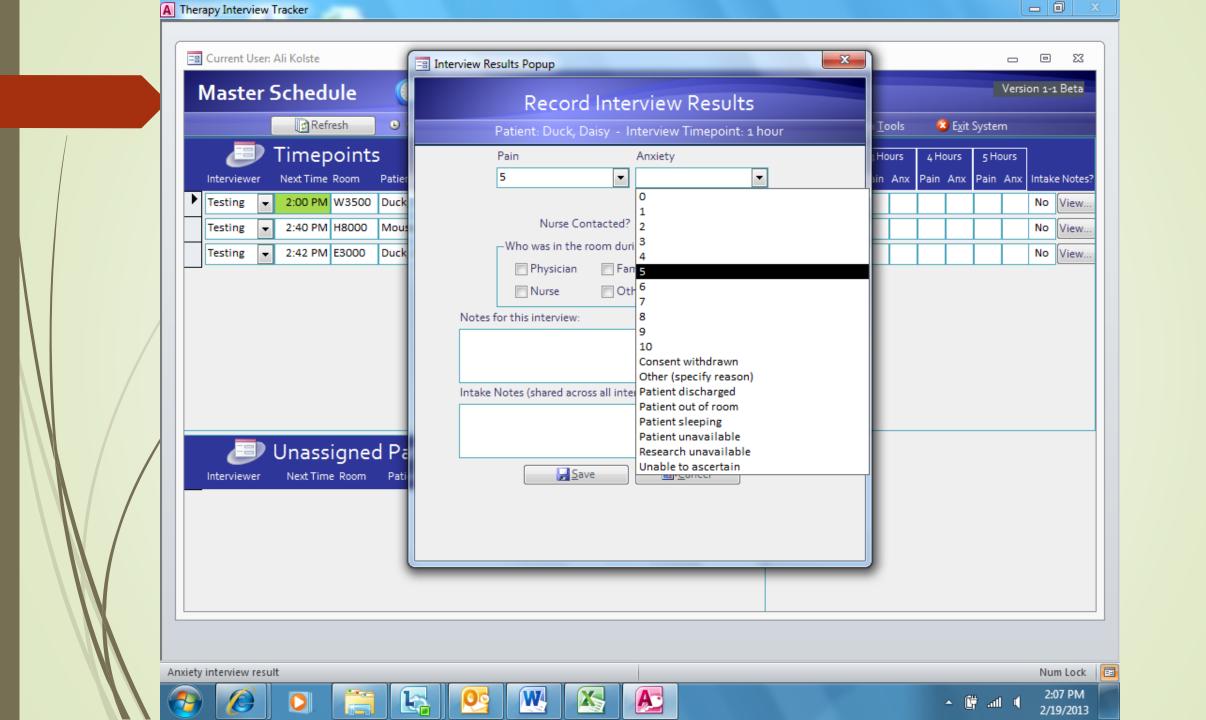
- Aim 1: Understand selection of patients and CIH therapies
- Aim 2: Examine the effects of therapies on immediate change in pain
- Aim 3: Examine the effects on <u>duration of pain</u> <u>management</u>

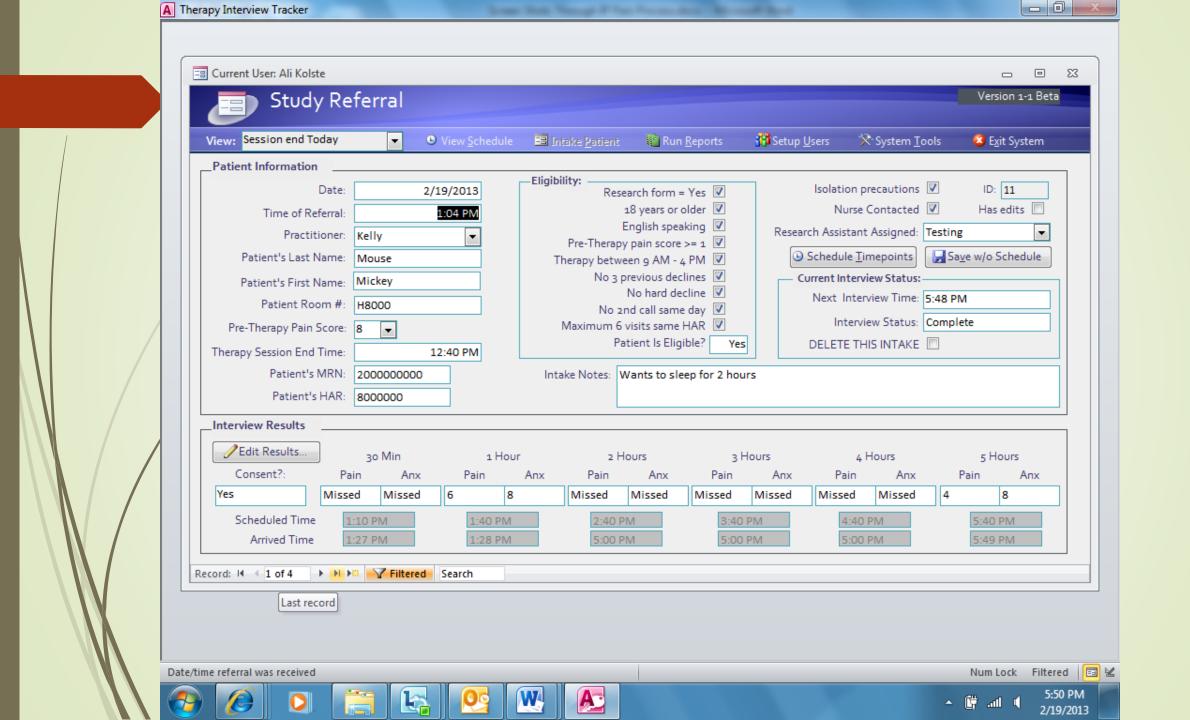
Methods

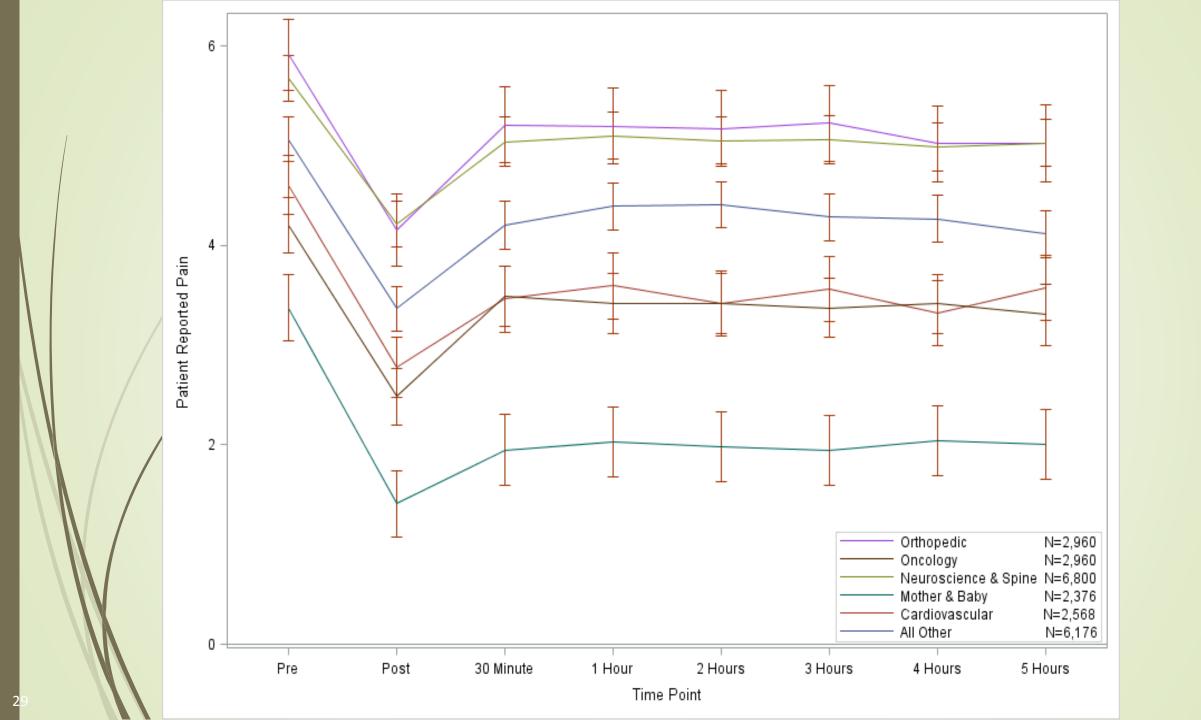
- Collect six post-therapy pain scores:
 - 30 minutes
 - 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 hours











Conclusions

Results provide evidence that CIH therapies substantially reduce both short-term pain and anxiety among various inpatients.

- Future studies are warranted and could explore:
 - Which treatments are most effective for a given population.
 - Potential synergy of opioid analgesics and IM therapy.
 - Longer-term effects of IM on pain and anxiety.
 - Cost effectiveness of IM therapy for inpatients.

Collaborators and Funding Source

- Jon Christianson PhD, Economist (U of M)
- Michael Finch PhD, Methodologist (U of M and Children's)
- Rachel Rivard, Biostatistician
- Alison Kolste, Study Coordinator
- Kristen Griffin MA, MPH, Scientific Advisor
- Adam Reinstein MaOM, LAc Acupuncturist
- Pamela Jo Johnson PhD, Epidemiologist
- Jill Johnson PhD, Epidemiologist
- Desiree Trebesch MA, Study Coordinator
- ► Kelly McBride LAc, Acupuncturist
- Dan Crespin PhD, Methodologist
- Robert Jones, Senior Research Assistant
- Caitlin Dreier, Research Assistant
- Stephanie Wallerius, Research Assistant
- Nichole Janssen, Research Assistant
- Sirri Nawa, Research Assistant

The project was supported by NIH, NCCIH grant R01 AT006518 to JAD.

Two examples of PBR in practice

Integrative Medicine provided at Abbott Northwestern Hospital (ANW)

BraveNet Practice Based Research Network

About BraveNet

- BraveNet is a national practice-based research network comprised of 18 member CIH clinics plus VAMC (3 sites)
- Founded in 2007
- Expanded in two waves of enrollment from 8 initial member sites to 18
- Expansion focus:
 - Ethnic, racial, and economic diversity
 - Actively funded researchers
 - Geographic range

BraveNet Member Practices



Completed Research Projects

- BraveNet Multi-Center Integrative Medicine Survey (Registry Study)
 - 4,180 subjects, one visit (Explore, 2012 and 2015)
- BraveNet Multi-Center Study on Integrative Medicine Treatment Approaches for Pain (SIMTAP)
 - 400 subject target, four visits with 24 weeks followup, and includes laboratory testing
 - 252 participants completed four study visits and contributed to final analysis (BMC CAM, 2013 and Integrative Cancer Therapies, 2014)

BraveNet Publications

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

PATIENTS SEEK INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE FOR PREVENTIVE APPROACH TO OPTIMIZE HEALTH

Ruth Q. Wolever, PhD, ^{1,#} Donald I. Abrams, MD, ² Benjamin Kligler, MD, ³ Jeffery A. Dusek, PhD, ⁴ Rhonda Roberts, MSPH, ⁵ Joyce Frye, DO, MBA, MSCE, ⁶ Joel S. Edman, DSc, ⁷ Steve Amoils, MD, ⁸ Elizabeth Pradhan, PhD, ⁶ Myles Spar, MD, MPH, ^{9,10} Tracy Gaudet, MD, ¹ Erminia Guarneri, MD, ¹¹ Peter Homel, PhD, ³ Sandra Amoils, MD, ⁸ Roberta A. Lee, MD, ³ Brian Berman, MD, ⁶ Daniel A. Monti, MD, ⁷ and Rowena Dolor, MD, MHS⁵

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE PATIENTS HAVE HIGH STRESS, PAIN, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMPTOMS

Ruth Q. Wolever, PhD^{1#} Nikita S. Goel, MS² Rhonda S. Roberts, MSPH³ Karen Caldwell, PhD⁴ Benjamin Kligler, MD⁵ Jeffery A. Dusek, PhD⁶ Adam Perlman, MD⁷ Rowena Dolor, MD⁸ and Donald I. Abrams, MD⁹

Brief Report

Characteristics of Cancer Patients
Presenting to an Integrative Medicine
Practice-Based Research Network

Integrative Cancer Therapies I-6

The Author(s) 2014
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ict.sagepub.com

SSAGE

Joel S. Edman, DSc¹, Rhonda S. Roberts, MS², Jeffery A. Dusek, PhD³, Rowena Dolor, MD², Ruth Q. Wolever, PhD², and Donald I. Abrams, MD⁴

Abrams et al. BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine 2013, 13:146 http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6882/13/146



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

The BraveNet prospective observational study on integrative medicine treatment approaches for pain

Donald I Abrams^{1*}, Rowena Dolor², Rhonda Roberts², Constance Pechura³, Jeffery Dusek⁴, Sandi Amoils⁵, Steven Amoils⁵, Kevin Barrows¹, Joel S Edman⁶, Joyce Frye⁷, Erminia Guarneri⁸, Ben Kligler⁹, Daniel Monti⁶, Myles Spar¹⁰ and Ruth Q Wolever¹¹

Newest Study: PRIMIER

Patients Receiving Integrative Medicine Interventions Effectiveness Registry

NCT 01754038

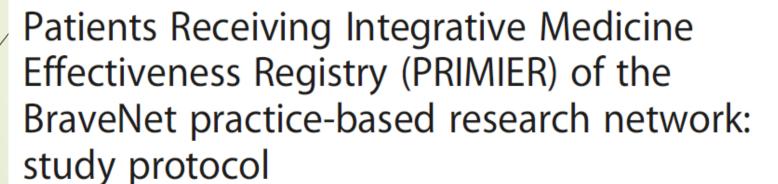
Study Protocol published

Dusek et al. BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine (2016) 16:53 DOI 10.1186/s12906-016-1025-0

BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

STUDY PROTOCOL

Open Access





Jeffery A. Dusek^{1*}, Donald I. Abrams², Rhonda Roberts³, Kristen H. Griffin¹, Desiree Trebesch¹, Rowena J. Dolor³, Ruth Q. Wolever^{4,5}, M. Diane McKee⁶ and Benjamin Kligler⁷

PRIMIER OBJECTIVES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

To evaluate the change in patient-reported outcomes (e.g. quality of life, mood and stress) over time

■ SECONDARY OBJECTIVE

To evaluate whether patient- reported outcomes differ by baseline characteristics of the participants (e.g. demographics, clinical condition, patient activation measure score or intervention sought)

PRIMIER MEASURES- Patient Reported via Redcap

- Patient Demographics
- PROMIS 29
- PROMIS Perceived Stress Scale (PSS-4)
- Patient Activation Measure © (PAM)
- Self Reported Conditions and Symptoms
- Self Reported CIH Services Used

Chronic Pain Cohort

- Report pain (4 or greater on a scale of 0 to 10) for 3 months or longer
- Baseline data plus at least one follow up survey

PROMIS Baseline - Chronic Pain Cohort

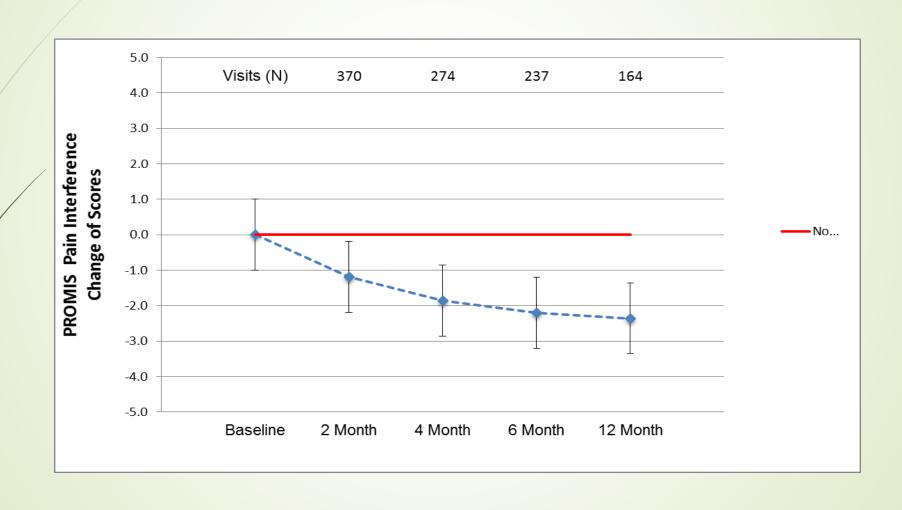
Pain Interference (0*-100) mean 60.5 (sd 7.5)

Anxiety (0*-100) mean 57.6 (sd 8.6)

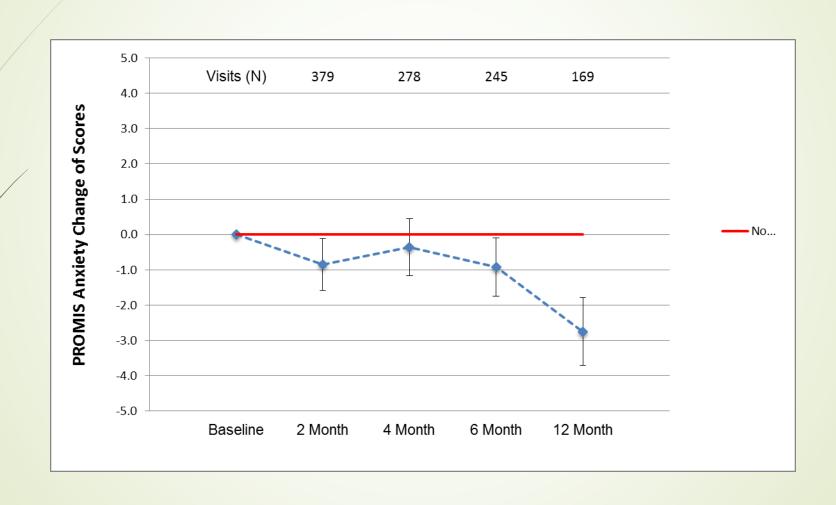
Depression (0*-100) mean 53.8 (sd 8.7)

^{*} Lower score better health; ** higher score better health

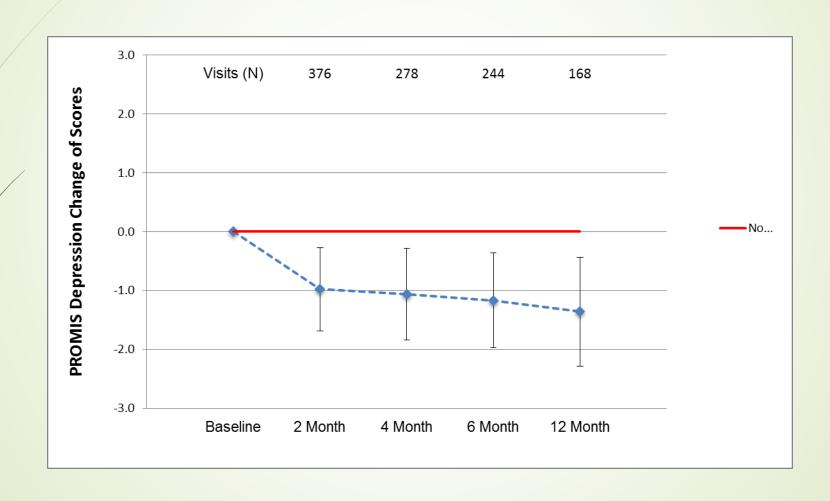
PROMIS Pain Interference



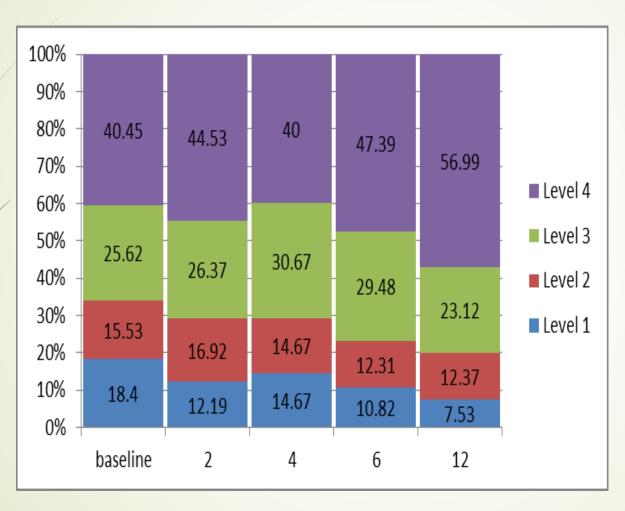
PROMIS Anxiety



PROMIS Depression



Patient Activation Measure



Level 1- Does not believe has active or important role (↓ 13%)

Level 2- Lacks knowledge and confidence to act (↓ 20%)

Level 3- Beginning to take action (↓ 9%)

Level 4- Maintaining behavior over time (↑ 41%)

Conclusions

- Current PRIMIER results demonstrate a capacity to recruit and retain patients.
- PRIMIER Chronic pain cohort achieved important reductions in pain interference, but the enrollment is continuing.
- Using EHR extracts in the next months will allow exploring which treatments, and dosing have the biggest impact on outcomes.

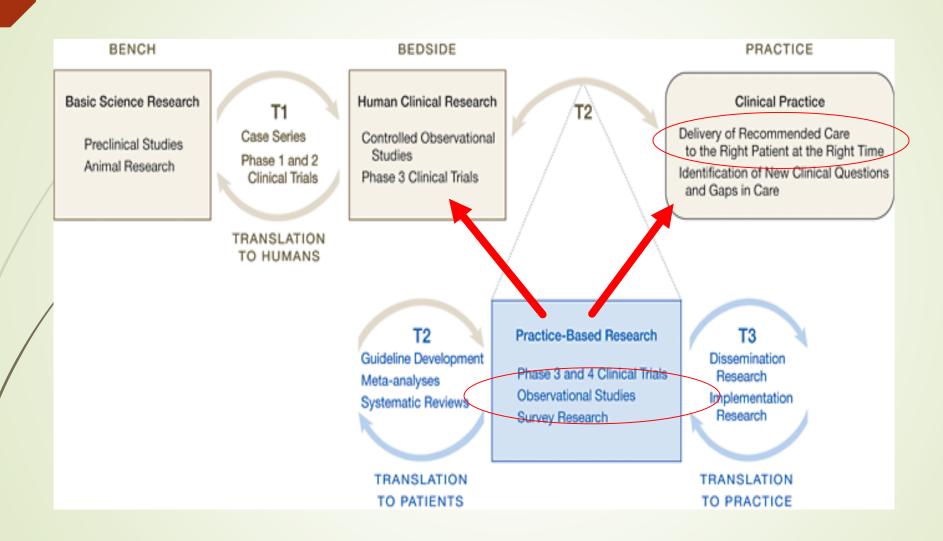
BraveNet Member Practices

- Albuquerque, NM Center for Life at UNM
- Baltimore, MD Center for Integrative Medicine at University of Maryland
- Boston, MA Boston Medical Center
- Chicago, IL Northwestern Medical Osher Center for Integrative Medicine
- Cincinnati, OH Alliance Integrative Medicine
- Columbus, OH Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, Center for Integrative Health and Wellness
- Denver, CO The Center for Integrative Medicine at University of Colorado Hospital
- Durham, NC Duke Integrative Medicine
- Irvine, CA Susan Samueli Center for Integrative Medicine at UCI School of Medicine
- San Francisco, CA Osher Center for Integrative Medicine
- Minneapolis, MN Penny George Institute for Health and Healing
- Nashville, TN Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- New York, NY Center for Health and Healing at Mount Sinai Beth Israel
- Philadelphia, PA Jefferson Myrna Brind Center of Integrative Medicine
- Pittsburgh, PA UPMC Center for Integrative Medicine
- San Diego, CA Scripps Center for Integrative Medicine
- San Diego, CA UCSD Center for Integrative Medicine
- Venice, CA Venice Family Clinic, Simm/Mann Health and Wellness Center
- Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinics- DC, GLA, EO

Summary: Practice-Based Research

- Practice based research provides invaluable information for the field of complementary and integrative health
- Answers derived from this research can be used in various ways
 - Inform future randomized trials
 - Inform clinical practice

Practice-based Research



Westfall, J. M. et al. JAMA 2007;297:403-406.

2016 NIH, NCCIH Systematic Review

SYMPOSIUM ON PAIN MEDICINE





Evidence-Based Evaluation of Complementary
Health Approaches for Pain Management in the
United States

Richard L. Nahin, PhD, MPH; Robin Boineau, MD, MA; Partap S. Khalsa, DC, PhD; Barbara J. Stussman, BA; and Wendy J. Weber, ND, PhD, MPH

Mavo Clin Proc. 2016:91(9):1292-1306

2016 JAMA Commentary

News & Analysis

Medical News & Perspectives

As Opioid Epidemic Rages, Complementary Health Approaches to Pain Gain Traction

Jennifer Abbasi

JAMA. 2016 Nov 2. doi: 10.1001/jama.2016.15029. [Epub ahead of print]

2016 JAMA Commentary

News & Analysis

Medical News & Perspectives

As Opioid Epidemic Rages, Complementary Health Approaches to Pain Gain Traction

Jennifer Abbasi

Unlike a typical systematic review that assigns quality values to the studies, the investigators conducted a narrative review, in which they simply looked at the number of positive and negative trials. "If there were more positives than negatives then we generally felt the approach had some value," Nahin

JAMA. 2016 Nov 2. doi: 10.1001/jama.2016.15029. [Epub ahead of print]

2016 JAMA Commentary

News & Analysis

Medical News & Perspectives

As Opioid Epidemic Rages, Complementary Health Approaches to Pain Gain Traction

Jennifer Abbasi

Unlike a typical systematic review that assigns quality values to the studies, the investigators conducted a narrative review, in which they simply looked at the number of positive and negative trials. "If there were more positives than negatives then we generally felt the approach had some value," Nahin

Based on a "preponderance" of positive vs negative trials, complementary approaches that may offer pain relief include acupuncture and yoga for back pain; acupuncture and tai chi for osteoarthritis of the knee; massage therapy for neck pain; and relaxation techniques for severe headaches and migraine.

JAMA. 2016 Nov 2. doi: 10.1001/jama.2016.15029. [Epub ahead of print]

Quotes from NIH, NCCIH staff

A next step for the NCCIH, Shurtleff said, is to conduct "pragmatic" studies that look at the effectiveness of complementary health strategies for pain outside of the strict inclusion/exclusion criteria of RCTs. "We're looking to see how this works in real time in the real world, with all the warts and things that go along with that," he said.

Quotes from NIH, NCCIH staff

A next step for the NCCIH, Shurtleff said, is to conduct "pragmatic" studies that look at the effectiveness of complementary health strategies for pain outside of the strict inclusion/exclusion criteria of RCTs. "We're looking to see how this works in real time in the real world, with all the warts and things that go along with that," he said.

"At the end of the day, if an approach is successful you'll be able to generalize it more to everyone with the disease, versus a very small cohort of individuals," Nahin added.

