



# **OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this lecture you should be able to describe:

- Nociceptors, Referred Pain, radiating pain
- "Gating" of Pain
- Pain Suppression ("Analgesia") System in the Brain and Spinal Cord
- Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS)
- Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS)

# **Nociceptive & Neuropathic Pain**

•Nociceptive pain is detected by specialized transducers connected to A-delta and C-fibers (stimuli from somatic and visceral structures)

• Neuropathic pain damage to nerves (trigeminal neuralgia, postherpetic pain, diabetic neuropathy)

#### **4 Basic Processes**

- **1. Transduction**—nociceptors free nerve endings
- 2. Transmission
- **3. Perception of Pain-At cortical Level**
- Modulation of Pain, Changing or inhibiting pain impulses in the descending tract (brain→ spinal cord) [norepinephrine and serotonin]

### Chemical agents that produce pain

- Nociceptors are activated by: Bradykinin, serotonin, Histamine, K<sup>+</sup> ion, Acids, acetyl choline, & proteolytic enzymes.
- Nociceptors are sensitized by: Prostaglandins & substance P



# Pain Pathways

### FAST PAIN

- Transmitted by Aδ(delta) fibers in the peripheral nerves
- > Characteristics of A $\delta$  fibers
- Myelinated -
- Diameter fine 2 5 μm
- 12 30 m/sec. conduction velocity
- Terminated at I and V layer
- Fast pain, rapid, pricking and well localized
- Neurotransmitter Glutamate
- 20% pain conduction

# Pain Pathways

## SLOW PAIN

- Chronic type of pain, transmitted by C fibers
   <u>Characteristics of C fibers</u>
- Non-Myelinated
- Diameter 0.4 1.2 μm
- conduction velocity 0.5 2 m/s
- Terminate in layer II and III of dorsal horn (substantia gelatinosa)
- Slow, diffuse, dull, aching
- Neurotransmitter P-Substance
- 80% of pain conduction

#### A MODAL OF "GATING" OF PAIN



Implies a non-painful stimulus can block the transmission of a noxious stimulus. Is based on the premise that the gate, located in the dorsal horn of the spinal cord, modulates the afferent nerve impulses.

- **1.** A-Delta fibres (sharp pain)
- 2. C fibres (dull pain)
- 3. A-Beta fibres that carry messages of light touch

### Conditions that open or close the gate

	Conditions that open the gate	Conditions that close the gate	
Physical conditions	Extent of the injury	Medication	
	Inappropriate activity level	Counterstimulation, eg massage	
Emotional Conditions	Anxiety or worry	Positive emotions	
	Tension	Relaxation	
	Depression	Rest	
Mental conditions	Focusing on the pain	Intense concentration or distraction	
	Boredom	Involvement and interest in life activities	

## **REFERRED PAIN**

- Pain that is not felt in the diseased structure itself, but at another place in the body far away from the site of origin.
- Visceral and deep somatic pain are often referred, but superficial pain is not.
- Mechanism of referred pain
  - Dermatomal rule
  - Convergence of peripheral & visceral pain on the same second order neuron that project to brain

## **REFERRED PAIN**

## Convergence

B. Referred pain

**Branches of** visceral pain fibers synapse in the spinal cord on the same second-order **Neurons that** receive pain signals from the skin



## **REFERRED PAIN**

When visceral pain is referred to the surface of the body, the person generally localizes it in the dermatomal segment from which the visceral organ originated in the embryo, not necessarily where the visceral organ now lies.

## **Dermatomal rule**



#### Figure 48–6

Surface areas of referred pain from different visceral organs.

## REFERRED PAIN

Localization of Visceral Pain "Visceral" and the "Parietal" Pain Transmission Pathways

When pain is both localized and referred it is called radiating pain



#### Figure 48-7

Visceral and parietal transmission of pain signals from the appendix.



(الشهيد لا يجد ألم القتل إلا كما يجد أحدكم ألم مس القرصة) الن ماجه

Pain Suppression ("Analgesia") System in the Brain and Spinal Cord

Ascending Pain Pathway

> Descending Analgesic Pathway



Dual Pathways for Transmission of Pain Signals into the Central Nervous System

## Neospinothalamic Tract Paleospinothalamic Tract



#### Figure 48–3

Transmission of pain signals into the brain stem, thalamus, and cerebral cortex by way of the *fast pricking pain pathway* and the *slow burning pain pathway*.

- (1) Enkephalin Neurons from periaqueductal gray and periventricular areas of the mesencephalon and upper pons send signals to
- (2) Raphe magnus nucleus, in the lower pons and upper medulla From these nuclei, second-order N go down the dorsolateral columns in the spinal cord & secrete Serotonin which act on local neurons to secrete Enkephalin
- (3) a pain inhibitory complex in the dorsal

At this point, the analgesia signals can block the pain before it is relayed to the brain.

#### Pain Suppression ("Analgesia") System in the Brain and Spinal Cord





Activation of the presynaptic OR leads to a decrease in Ca<sup>++</sup> influx, resulting in a decrease in release of glutamate and substance P.

Activation of the postsynaptic OR hyperpolarizes the dorsal horn interneuron by causing an increase in K<sup>+</sup> conductance.

- Understand duration of the EPSP in the dorsal horn neuron.
- Activation of OR on dorsal root ganglia cell bodies also contributes to reduced transmission from nociceptive afferents.

#### B<sub>1</sub> Sensory input





### TRANSCRANIAL DIRECT CURRENT STIMULATION (TDCS)

- It is a non-invasive procedure in which a device sends a small Direct Current (DC) across electrodes in the areas of interest on the scalp to modulate brain function.
- This current flow can increases or decreases the neuronal excitability in the specific area being stimulated, based on which type of stimulation.
- When the current passes from the anode to the cathode, it may increase the activity of the brain at the anode site and decrease the activity of the brain near the cathode site.



### TRANSCUTANEOUS ELECTRICAL NERVE STIMULATION (TENS)

- The gate-control mechanism of pain modulation and serves as the rationale behind the use of transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) for pain relief.
- TENS uses electrodes to activate Aα and Aβ fibers in the vicinity of the injury.





### Inhibition of Pain Transmission by Tactile Sensory Signals

- Stimulation of large type Aβ sensory fibers from peripheral tactile receptors depress transmission of pain signals from the same body area by lateral inhibition in the spinal cord
- The simultaneous physical and psychogenic excitation of the central analgesia system is the basis of pain relief by *ACUPUNCTURE*.





#### **CHARACTERSITICS OF VISCERAL PAIN**

- Poorly localized
  Associated with nausea and autonomic disturbance
- Often referred
- Cutting, crushing are not painful when applied to viscera
- Pain is caused by distension, ischemia and inflammation

Pain - Aδ and fibers Travel with autonomic afferent

Spinal cord (Dorsal Horn) Lat. spinothalamic tract

Thalamus

**Somatosensory Cortex** 

## **PAIN SCALES**

- Visual Analog Scale
- Locate area of pain on a picture
- McGill pain questionnaire
  - Evaluate sensory, evaluative, & affective components of pain
    - 20 subcategories, 78 words



#### Mc Gill-Melzack PAIN QUESTIONNAIRE

Patient's name _				Age	
File No				Date	
Clinical category	y (e.g. cardi	ac, neurologica	al, etc.):		
Diagnosis:					
Analgesic (if alre	eady admini	istered):			
1. Type					
2. Dosage .					
3. Time give Patient's intellige	en in relatio ence: círcle	n to this test number that re	presents best e	stimate	
1 (low)	2	3	4		5 high
		*****	******		
This questionnair	e has been o	designed to tell	us more about	your pain. Fo	ur major
questions we ask	are:				
<ol> <li>Where is</li> </ol>	your pain?				
2. What doe	es it feel like	≥?			
<ol><li>How doe</li></ol>	es it change	with time?			
<ol><li>How stro</li></ol>	is it?				
lt is importa	int that you	tell us how you	ur pain feels no	w. Please follo	w the instructions
at the beginning c	of each part				
OR Malzack (	Det 1970				
er n. meizack, C	201 1970				

#### Part 2. What Does Your Pain Feel Like?

Some of the words below describe your <u>present</u> pain. Circle ONLY those words that best describe it. Leave out any category that is not suitable. Use only a single word in each appropriate category—the one that applies best.

1	2	3	4
Flickering	lumping	Pricking	Sharp
Quivering	Flashing	Boring	Cutting
Pulsing	Shooting	Driiling	Lacerating
Throbbing	8	Stabbing	
Beating		Lancinating	
Pounding		0	
5	6	7	8
Pinching	Tugging	Hot	Tingling
Pressing	Pulling	Burning	Itchy
Gnawing	Wrenching	Scolding	Smarting
Cramping		Searing	Stinging
Crushing			
9	10	11	12
Dull	Tender	Tiring	Sickening
Sore	Taut	Exhausting	Suffocating
Hurting	Rasping		
Aching	Splitting		
Heavy			
1.3	14	15	16
Fearful	Punishing	Wretched	Annoving
Frightful	Cruel	Blinding	Troublesome
Terrifying	Viscious		Miserable
	Killing		Intense
			Unbearable
17	18	19	20
Spreading	Tight	Cool	Nagging
Radiating	Numb	Cold	Nauseating
Penetrating	Drawing	Freezing	Agonizing
Piercing	Squeezing		Dreadful
	Tearing		Torturing



#### How Does Your Pain Change With Time? Part 3. 1. Which word or words would you use to describe the pattern of your pain? 2 3 1 Rhythmic Continuous Brief Periodic Momentary Steady Constant Intermittent Transient 2. What kind of things relieve your pain? 3. What kind of things increase your pain? How Strong Is Your Pain? Part 4. People agree that the following 5 word represent pain in increasing intensity. They are: 5 3 4 2 Mild Distressing Horrible Excruciating Discomforting To answer each question below, write the number of the most appropriate word in the space beside the question. 1. Which word describes your pain right now? 2. Which word describes it at its worst? 3. Which word describes it when it is least? 4. Which word describes the worst toothache vou ever had?

- 5. Which word describes the worst headache you ever had?
- 6. Which word describes the worst stomach-ache you ever had?

## Applied

1. What will happen if sensory area SI is removed?

Ans. persons ability to interpret the quality of pain & precise location of pain will be affected.

2. Why patient with chronic pain syndrome have difficulty in sleeping?

Ans. Paleospinothalamic pathway sends information to reticular formation and thalamic nuclei which are part of brain activating / alerting system, therefore chronic pain syndrome causes difficulty in sleep.

# Placebo Effect

- Placebo stems from the Latin word for "I shall please"
  - Used to describe pain reduction obtained from a mechanism other than those related to the physiological effects of the tx.
  - Linked to psychological mechanisms
- All Treatments <sup>™</sup> have some degree of placebo effect
  - Most studies involving TM involving the use of a sham TM (ultrasound set at the intensity of 0) and an actual treatment have shown ↓ levels of pain in each group.

# **Congenital Analgesia**

- A well-known case of congenital insensitivity to pain is a girl referred to as 'Miss C' who was a student at McGill university in Montreal in the 1950s.
- She was normal in every way, except that she could not feel pain. When she was a child she had bitten off the tip of her tongue and had suffered third-degree burns by kneeling on a radiator.
- she did not feel any pain when she was given strong electric shocks or when exposed to very hot and very cold water. When these stimuli were presented to her she showed no change in heart rate, blood pressure or respiration.
- She died at the age of 29 as a result of her condition, because she damaged her knees, hips and spine.

## Fibromyalgia: Pain Without Injury

- The occurrence of body-wide pain in the absence of tissue damage, as in fibromyalgia, interferes with all aspects of a person's life and undermines their credibility.
- The problem is that normal activities can be exhausting, sleep is disturbed, the ability to concentrate is impaired, gastrointestinal function is often abnormal, persistent headaches are common, and the unrelenting pain that no one can see is often detrimental to their personal and professional lives--as it creates a "credibility gap."

# **Phantom limb pain**

- Phantom limbs give impression of pressure and pain
- Even if phantom limb is experienced as spatially detached from the body, it is still felt to belong to the patient.
- Paraplegic people experience phantom limbs. They can even experience continually cycling legs.
- It is the emotional and motivational systems that cause the phantom limb experience.

Our brain can reorganize if sensory input is cut off at the ventral posterior thalamic nucleus even after that part is amputated



# This acquired tolerance is different from addiction

#### **Opiate Tolerance**

receptor desensitization compensatory adaptations in neuronal circuit learning mechanisms

#### **Physical Dependence**

compensatory adaptations in neuronal circuit Drug Withdrawal

removal of opiate unmasks compensatory adaptations

**Drug Addiction** Psychological addiction is extremely rare during treatment of pain

- This acquired tolerance is different from addiction, which refers to a psychological craving.
- Psychological addiction rarely occurs when morphine is used to treat chronic pain, provided the patient does not have a history of drug abuse.

## **TERMS FREQUENTLY USED**

- Hyperalgesia: Excessive Pain
- Allodynia: Pain caused by any other sensation e.g. touch will cause pain.

• Muscular Pain: Less blood flow in the muscles (ischemia).

• Stress analgesia: Mild degree of pain is not felt if the other part of the body has excessive pain.

- Causalgia: burning pain Both develop after wound or disease has ended. Triggered by a simple stimulus e.g. breeze or vibration.
- Neuralgia sharp pain along a nerve pathway.

• Thalamic Syndrome: Obstruction of the thalmogeniculate branch of the posterior cerebral artery Affects posterior thalamic nuclei Patient suffers from prolonged severe pain



#### INHIBITION OF NOCICEPTION

#### FACILITATION OF NOCICEPTION

