



CLINICAL TIPS AND PEARLS

Clinical Tips and Pearls

- Cancer pain is common. About half of cancer patients suffer with cancer pain.
- Uncontrolled cancer pain severely impairs the quality of life of patients and their families.
- All types of pain (nociceptive, neuropathic, and mixed pain) are frequent in cancer patients which are similar to other pain syndromes.
- Thorough assessment is a prerequisite for effective management of cancer pain.
- Although clinical examination is the gold standard, assessment of cancer pain must be multi-dimensional and consider social and psychological aspects.
- Cancer pain diagnosis is essential to the planning of further pain treatment.

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- Management of cancer pain requires a multidisciplinary approach.
- Treatment of cancer pain is guided by the mechanisms responsible for the pain.
- The WHO analgesic ladder is still the gold standard for the management of cancer pain.
- Opioids are the mainstay for the management of cancer pain. Most cancer pain can be managed safely and effectively using combination therapies with opioids.
- Palliative care for cancer patients must be considered at the earliest stage.
- Non-pharmacological options need to be considered when treating cancer pain.
- There is no need for a cancer patient to suffer unnecessarily with pain.