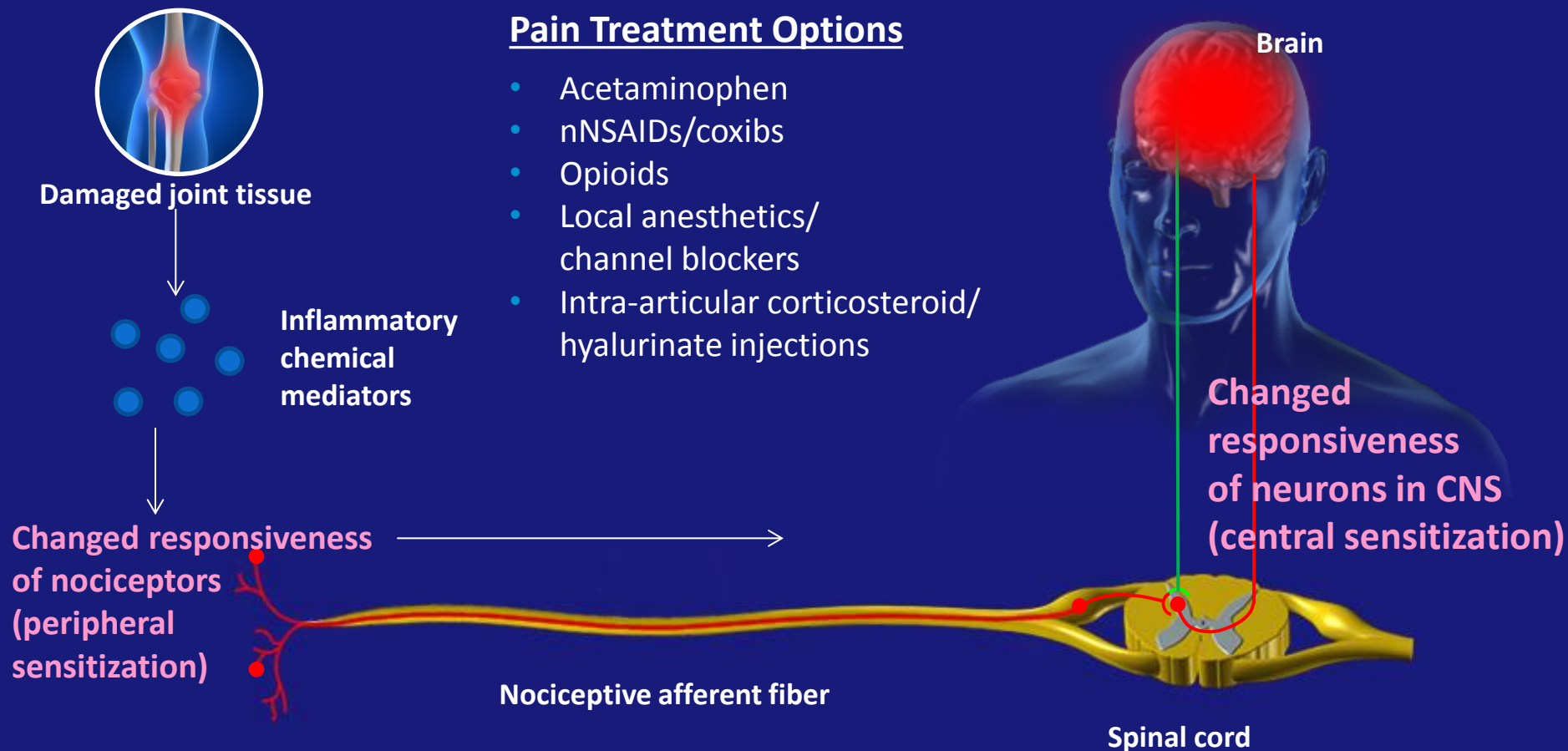

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Frequently Asked Questions

- Why is it important to understand the mechanisms of inflammation in joint diseases?
- Is joint pain always related to joint destruction?
- In the treatment of osteoarthritis, when is the addition of antidepressants reasonable?

Why is it important to understand the mechanisms of inflammation in joint diseases?



CNS = central nervous system; coxib = COX-2 inhibitor; nsNSAID = non-specific non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug

Hochberg MC et al. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)* 2012; 64(4):465-74; Scholz J et al. *Nat Neurosci* 2002; 5(Suppl):1062-7.

Why is it important to understand the mechanisms of inflammation in joint diseases?

- Chronic joint pain due to arthritis is frequently inflammatory in nature
- Inflammation is involved in the pathogenesis of both mechanical and inflammatory joint pain, such as osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis
- Understanding the pathophysiology of the pain can help guide treatment selection

Is joint pain always related to joint destruction?

- Joint pain may be due to soft tissue injury (as in tendinitis and bursitis), in which the soft tissue near the joint is inflamed, rather than the joint itself
- Thus, in these cases, the pain felt by the patient is not necessarily associated with joint destruction as seen using imaging modalities

In the treatment of osteoarthritis, when is the addition of antidepressants reasonable?

- Some osteoarthritis patients may use terms such as “burning” or “numbness” to describe their pain
 - These descriptors suggest a neuropathic component
- Non-traditional analgesics (e.g., $\alpha_2\delta$ ligands, TCAs, SNRIs) may be useful for treating this component
 - Further studies are needed to clarify the role of these drugs in osteoarthritis