Non pharmacological treatments for chronic pain: Self-management and Mindfulness Meditation

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At the end of this session participants will:
- Understand how self-management and mindfulness programs improve patients’ self-efficacy, reduce depression, and increase coping skills
- Be aware of readily available programs in Ontario
- Gain skills in promoting these programs to patients

What is Self-Management?

“The individual’s ability to manage the symptoms, treatment, physical and social consequences and lifestyle changes inherent in living with a chronic condition”.

(Barlow et al, 2002)

What is Self-Management Education?

- Programs, based on adult learning principles, that provide patients/clients with the five core skills needed to live an active and meaningful life.
- The goal is to maintain a wellness focus in the foreground, even in the midst of a chronic condition, to improve quality of life (Lorig, 2003).

Five Core Self-Management Skills

Problem-solving
Taking action for change
Decision-making
Partnerships with HCPs
Using resources
Chronic Pain
Self Management Program

- Standardized program
- Community-delivered
- 10-15 people per group
- 2.5 hrs/wk for 6 weeks
- Adaptation ASMP/CDSMP
- Train-the-trainer model of dissemination
- Leaders – Peers or HCPs
- Pain workbook and exercise audio CD

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In 2004, one man’s tears in my office led me to Dr. Sandi Lefort: chronic pain self-management program developer

Get with the Program: People who attend the program attain:

- Improved self efficacy
- Improved bodily function
- Reduced pain
- Improved Mental health Composite score (SF-36): (vitality, Social and emotional functioning and mental health)
- Reduced catastrophizing
- Reduced depression and catastrophizing scores in our studies linked to improved overall function

MOHLTC supports the Stanford Based Self Management Programs*

- [http://www.livingwellseontario.ca/](http://www.livingwellseontario.ca/)
- Multiple chronic disease self management programs (License fee paid by MOHLTC)
- see [http://patienteducation.stanford.edu/programs/cpsmp.html](http://patienteducation.stanford.edu/programs/cpsmp.html)
- : Diabetes, COPD, HIV, Chronic Pain
* Pay license fees, pay for training leaders, choices and changes workshop to teach PCP’s how to improve uptake.
CPSMP-related references (selected)


NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION?

- Self-regulation practices that focus on training, attention and awareness, bring mental processes under greater voluntary control and foster general mental well-being, and development of calmness, clarity, and concentration

WHAT IS IT?

- Mindfulness is defined as a moment-to-moment awareness of one’s experience without judgment

Meditation-induced reductions in pain intensity ratings were associated with increased activity in the anterior cingulate cortex and anterior insula, areas involved in the cognitive regulation of nociceptive processing. Reductions in pain unpleasantness ratings were associated with orbitofrontal cortex activation, an area implicated in reframing the contextual evaluation of sensory events. Moreover, reductions in pain unpleasantness also were associated with thalamic deactivation, which may reflect a limbic gating mechanism involved in modifying interactions between afferent input and executive-order brain areas.

Mindfulness stress reduction promotes metacognitive awareness.

- Decreases rumination via disengagement from perseverative cognitive activities.
- Enhances attentional capacities through gains in working memory.
- These cognitive gains, contribute to effective emotion regulation strategies.
MINDFULNESS AND CHRONIC PAIN

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- RCT MBSR in FMA: 8 weeks MBSR versus 8 weeks (education, progressive muscle relaxation, wait list control):
- (n=177) in the post-intervention interviews, patients in the MBSR arm reported substantial improvements, and large effect sizes were found, on a self-rated global scale that estimated perceived lessening of fibromyalgia-related impairment. Patients also indicated that they had achieved personal goals exceeding the level expected at baseline.

BUT: You’ve suggested to your patient that the Self-Management or the Mindfulness might help and he/she says:
- I don’t like groups
- It won’t work for me
- I don’t have time
- I’ve tried everything, nothing works
- Doc, just give me my pills, that’s all I want
- And more of the same.....

WHY WE NEED A TEAM!

David: HELP!!!!!!!!!!
WHAT CAN YOU OFFER HIM/HER?

OT Role: Breaking down barriers
- Talk about their previous experiences with self management.
- What education have they received/pursued?
- What strategies have they tried, and for how long?
- How did it go? What was the reaction? Was there something that really spoke to them?
- What informal strategies / approaches do they apply?

Breaking down more barriers
- Relate potential strategies to concrete examples, relevant to patient
- Athletes or performers in “the zone”
- “Flow” moments
- “What parts of your life really rise above your pain?”
Getting our feet wet

- Start with concrete, prescribed, structured exercises and activities
- PMR or breathing exercises
- Walking meditation
- Mindful Movement (Yoga, Tai Chi, Qi Gong)

Resources: When a structured program isn’t an option...digital

- Gentle chair yoga routine
- Progressive Muscle Relaxation
- CPS Meditation
- CPS Body Scan Relaxation

YouTube channel on Chronic Pain self-management meditations and exercise by Cara Kircher, OT with TRI-RC’s chronic pain program (google: YouTube Cara Kircher)

...or books!

- Living Beyond Your Pain: Using Acceptance & Commitment Therapy to Ease Chronic Pain
  - Jacobson, D., and T. Kober

- Get Out of Your Mind and Into Your Life: The New Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Guidebook
  - Steven C. Hayes

- The Chronic Pain Care Workbook
  - Michael J. Lewandowski

- Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions, 3rd Edition
  - Kate Lorig, et al.

- A Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Workbook
  - Bob Stahl & K. Geistbrenner

- Mission of ECHO Ontario Pain:

  To use the Ontario Telemedicine Network to link primary care providers in a supportive community of practice that will enhance their skills and confidence to manage chronic pain safely and effectively.

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