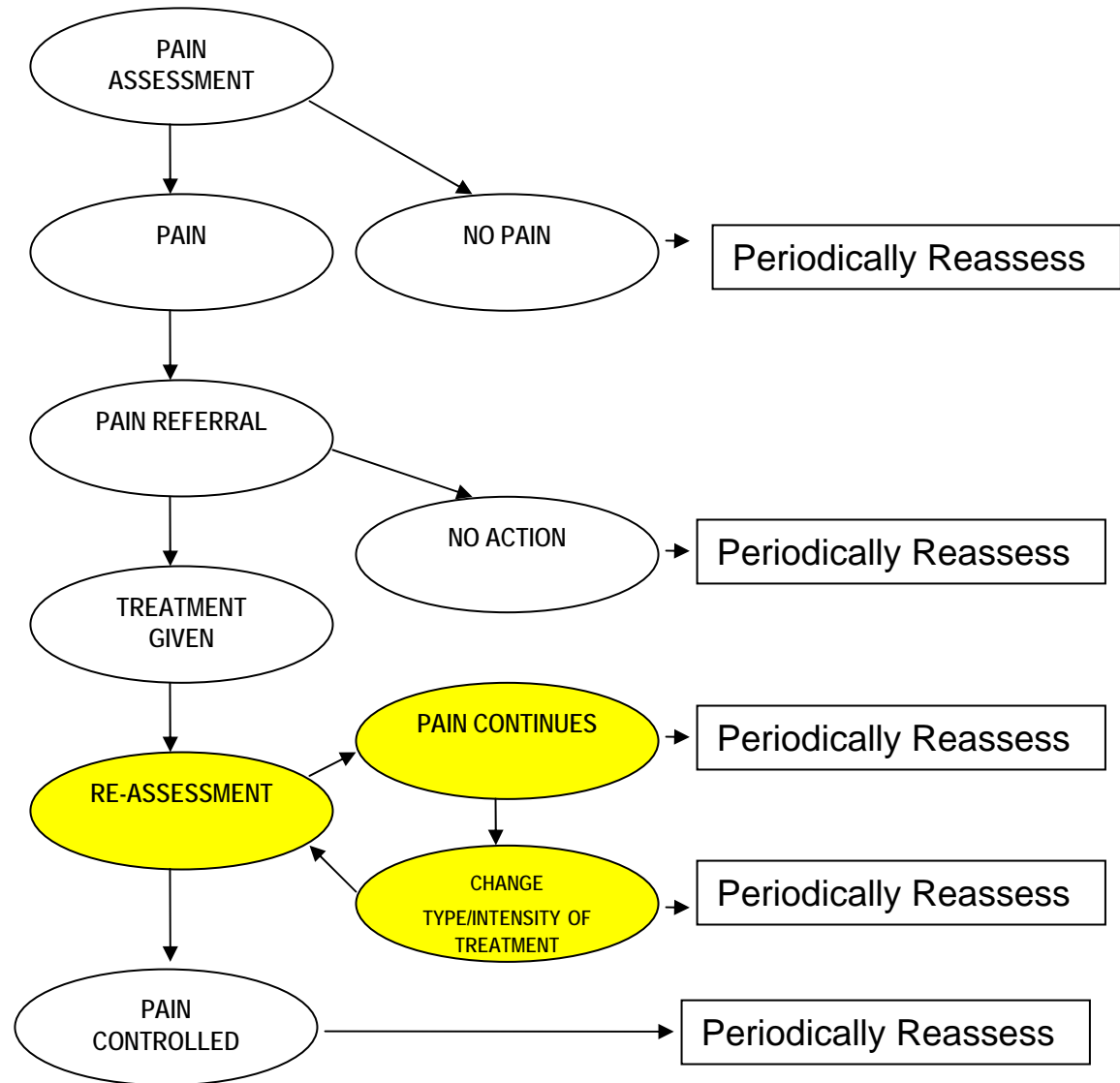


Pharmacologic Management of Pain

Betty Lim, MD

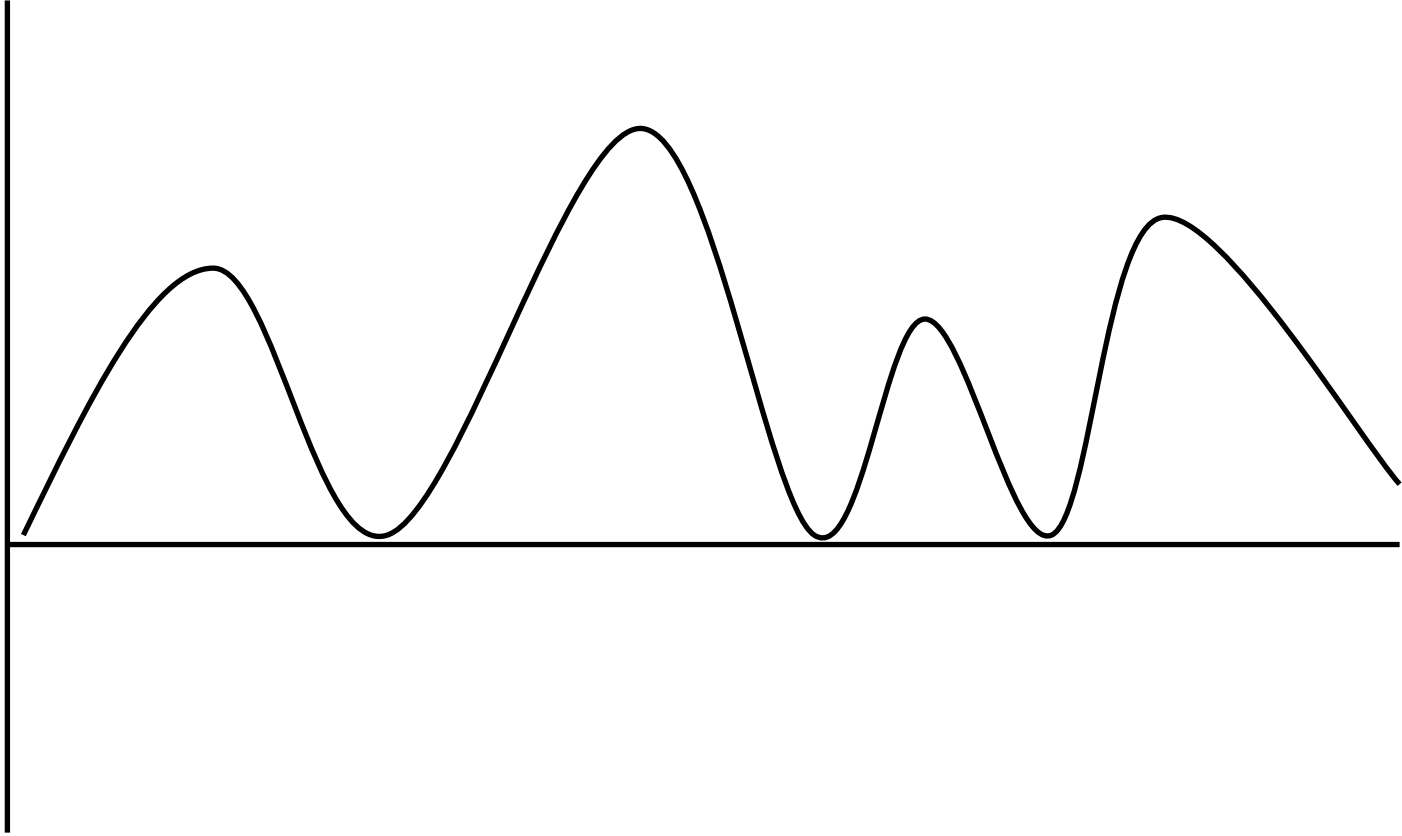
Assistant Professor of Geriatrics
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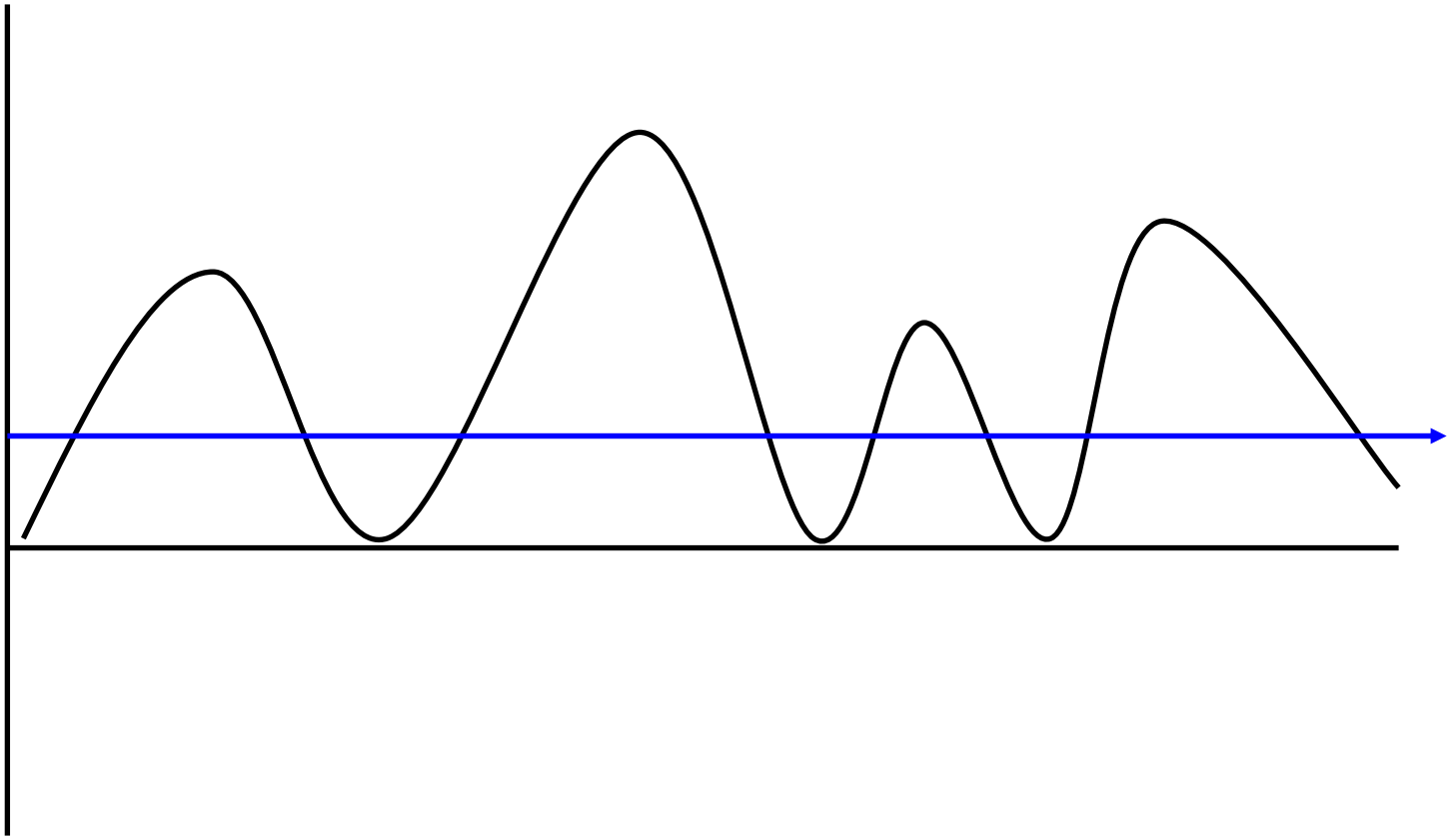
Palliative Care Project Director
Jewish Home and Hospital LifeCare System



Adapted from Sansone et al. (2007)
 Schervier Center for Research in Geriatric Care







2 Types of pain medications

- Long Acting - basal, constant and steady
- Takes a few hours to “kick in”, but lasts many hours
- If no long acting formulation available, can give a “standing dose” every few hours or “around the clock”.
- “rescue” doses or short acting to use as needed - for breakthrough pain, incidental pain
- Works right away, but does not last long
- should not be used alone when there is chronic pain

Important Concepts

- Avoid playing catch up with pain medications!
- Premedicate when necessary and give enough time for medication to work
 - Oral medications can take 15-60 minutes to fully take effect

Morphine, Dilaudid, Tylenol,
Motrin, Oxycontin, Fentanyl,
Vicodin, Lortab, Kadian,
oxycodone, Advil, Percocet,
Darvocet, Hydrocodone, Actiq,
Roxicodone, Naproxen,
Duragesic, OxyIR, Aleve,
Darvon, Hydromorphone,
Propoxyphene, Naprasyn

Non-opioids vs Opioids

- Non-Opioids
 - Acetaminophen
 - NSAIDs (Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory Drugs)
 - Ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil), aspirin, naprosen (Aleve)
 - Over-the-counter, but not necessarily safer

Non-opioids vs Opioids

- Opioids

- Morphine
- Hydromorphone
- Oxycodone
- Fentanyl
- Hydrocodone
- Methadone

(What NOT to use: Anything with Propoxyphene)

- Popular Combination Pills

- Percocet (oxycodone + acetaminophen)
- Vicodin, Lortab (hydrocodone + acetaminophen)
- Darvocet (Propoxyphene + acetaminophen) -- avoid

Common Side Effects of Opioids

- Drowsiness
- Confusion
- Nausea
- Itching

- These symptoms can occur or worsen at the start of an opioid medication or when a dose is increased, but often they go away after repeated use over a week or two.

- BUT...Constipation does not go away.

Opioids

- Different Formulations
 - Long Acting Morphine (MsContin, Morphine ER, Morphine SR)
 - Short Acting/Quick Acting (Morphine IR) or liquid morphine (Roxanol) or IV morphine
 - Long Acting Oxycodone (Oxycontin, Oxycodone ER)
 - Short Acting oxycodone (OxyIR) or liquid oxycodone (Roxicodone). No IV formulation
 - Fentanyl Patch – lasts 48-72hrs
 - Recent quick acting Fentanyl “lollipops” (Actiq)

Different ways to administer pain medications

- Oral
 - Pills, liquids
- Mucosal
 - Liquids do not always need to be swallowed
 - Liquids can be absorbed on inside surface of cheek or sublingually
- Intravenous/Intramuscular
- Rectal
 - Via suppositories, acetaminophen
- Topical
- Nebulized or inhaled opioids

Adjuvant to pain medications

- Antidepressants
- Anticonvulsants
- Local anesthetics
- Corticosteroids
- Antispasmodics

Demented patients in the hospital

Discussion