

WHAT IS PAIN MEDICINE?

Frequently Asked Questions

by: Pinnacle Pain Medicine

Millions of Americans deal with persistent, complex and debilitating pain throughout their lifetime, and these types of pain are most often associated with the aging population. If you suffer from persistent pain, visiting a pain medicine specialist can help to relieve your pain through conservative and comprehensive treatment.

Finally feeling relief from persistent pain can improve your quality of life – physically, emotionally and occupationally. Medical regimens are customized to patients' individual needs, possibly reducing the overall dependence on medications. Pain medicine treatment can also reduce medical costs and patients' dependence on the medical system.

When would it be necessary to see a pain medicine specialist?

If you experience any localized pain that persists for more than 3 months, you should seek professional treatment.

Why should I go to a "pain medicine" doctor?

Physicians who are board certified in pain medicine and/or anesthesiology specialize in finding the cause of the pain signal, treating the source of the pain and repairing as much damage as possible. Using a comprehensive approach and conservative treatment methods, pain medicine physicians' last resort is surgical therapy.

What qualifications should I look for in a pain medicine doctor?

It is important to understand that anesthesiologists developed the concept of "pain medicine" and were the first to specialize in the field over 30 years ago. Anesthesia was the first medical board to offer board

certification for pain treatment and all board certified pain specialists are required to have extensive training and knowledge of anesthesiology beyond what is expected of other doctors. Since sedation is routinely given for many pain procedures, having an anesthesiologist overseeing the sedation adds an important level of safety. So, when choosing or being referred to a doctor for pain medicine, make sure they are board certified in anesthesia and pain medicine.



What types of pain can be treated?

Patients suffering pain from spinal, disc or musculoskeletal abnormalities are most common. Pain from sports injuries, accidents or as an after effect of chemo or other cancer related treatment therapies are also treated by pain medicine doctors. These patients can receive immediate relief and long-term treatment benefits from pain medicine.

Specific types of pain could be lower back, neck (including whiplash), hip, knee, pelvic, degenerative disc disease, sciatica, headaches or facial/dental pain (TMJ) to name a few. ■

Information provided by Pinnacle Pain Medicine
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