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Rochester General Hospital Edition

September 2011



TREATMENT OF CHRONIC PAIN

Chronic pain is one of the most common and debilitating patient complaints. It affects not only individual patients but their families and friends, the work force and our society.

Approximately, 72.2 million Americans suffer from various forms of chronic pain. WHO estimates that twenty percent of people worldwide have varying degrees of chronic pain. Chronic pain is the most common cause of long-term disability with lost work days in the US estimated at more than 50 million days per year. The use and misuse of opioids for management of chronic pain is a major concern. Chronic pain is a major healthcare and social concern.

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