

New recommendations guide arthritis pain management

June 21 2018



(HealthDay)—The European League Against Rheumatism has released

recommendations—published in the June issue of the *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*—for health professionals to use in approaching pain management in inflammatory arthritis (IA) and osteoarthritis (OA).

Rinie Geenen, Ph.D., from Utrecht University in the Netherlands, and colleagues on a multidisciplinary task force including professionals and patient representatives conducted a systematic literature review to assess evidence regarding effects on pain of multiple treatment modalities. The authors included 186 reviews in their analysis.

The [task force](#) emphasized the importance for the health professional of adopting a patient-centered framework within a biopsychosocial perspective, having sufficient knowledge of IA and OA pathogenesis, and being able to differentiate localized and generalized pain. Pain treatment usually includes education, which can be complemented with physical activity and exercise; orthotics; psychological and social interventions; sleep hygiene education; weight management; pharmacological and joint-specific treatment options; or interdisciplinary [pain management](#). Pain was consistently positively affected by [physical activity](#) and exercise interventions as well as psychological interventions.

"Underpinned by available systematic reviews and meta-analyses, these recommendations enable [health professionals](#) to provide knowledgeable pain-management support for people with IA and OA," the authors write.

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Citation: New recommendations guide arthritis pain management (2018, June 21) retrieved 2

May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-06-arthritis-pain.html>

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