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“The Fifth Vital Sign” (60 – 90 minutes)

NCCR Category: Medical (Pain Management)

Breakout/Concurrent Sessions

Summary

One of the oldest and most basic roles of the healthcare provider is to alleviate pain. Approximately 90% of the patients we treat have a primary symptom of pain. Although different types of pain may be associated with specific medical or traumatic conditions, the goal of treatment still remains at alleviating our patients' discomfort and treating the underlying conditions. This session explores the pathophysiology of pain, methods of measuring pain, standard pain treatments, and explores alternative therapies for pain management.

Objectives

- Identify the pathophysiology of pain
- Determine the different means of quantifying a patient's pain.
- Identify standard pain treatment modalities
- Explore alternative, non-pharmacological, treatments