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Letter to the Editor: Pain Management Strategy in Neurosurgical Patients During the Coronavirus Pandemic



LETTER:

Management of pain has evolved significantly in the last decades. Not only neurosurgeons, but also various specialists, provide both invasive or noninvasive methods to control or relieve pain. It plays a significant role in the patients who do not respond to conservative methods of pain management.^{1,2} Pain management includes gabapentin, oxcarbamazepine, zonisamide, amitriptyline, nortriptyline capsaicin, and lidocaine patches.² There are many well-accepted procedures including discectomy, microvascular decompression, deep brain stimulation, spinal cord stimulation, and direct drug administration into the central nervous system through different routes, such as cingulotomy, medial thalamotomy, stereotactic mesencephalotomy, cordotomy, cordotectomy, rhizotomy, commissural myelotomy, and so forth.³ The current coronavirus disease 2019 epidemic has changed our way to deliver neurosurgical care to patients. We also have been encouraged to contain the spread of infection; therefore, neurosurgeons must avoid every kind of close contact. Neurosurgeons need to anticipate that because the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic continues growing, the increasing literature will also attempt to characterize the neurologic manifestations.^{4,5} Because many of the nonurgent neurosurgical procedures have been deferred during this pandemic, there is a need to develop guidelines for the management of painful syndromes (these conditions may not be life-threatening but can be quite disabling). Evidence suggesting the relative efficacy of several therapeutic alternatives might be pretty helpful for patients with disabling pain. These patients may get priority for one of these alternative treatments as reported in the literature.⁶⁻⁹ Additional noninvasive methods (radiosurgery, physiotherapy) of pain control can be further explored. There is enough available evidence; therefore, the scope can be extended with consensus.¹⁰

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