

## **Pain Related Definitions**

- Allodynia Pain caused by a stimulus that typically does not produce pain (e.g., light touch)
- Central Pain Pain resulting from a lesion or dysfunction in the central nervous system (e.g., post stroke pain)
- Dysesthesia Abnormal sensation that includes painful numbness, burning, tingling and allodynia
- Neuropathic Pain  
Pain initiated or caused by a primary lesion of dysfunction in the nervous system
- Nociceptors Neurons activated by noxious stimuli (also referred to as primary afferent neurons)
- Nociception The process of activation of primary afferent neurons by a noxious stimulus
- Noxious Stimulus  
A stimulus that is damaging or potentially damaging, that evokes activation of nociceptors (e.g., pinprick, extreme heat)
- Pain An unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage, or described in terms of such damage (IASP, 1979)
- Paresthesia Abnormal painful numbness, includes prickling, tingling and increased sensitivity
- Paroxysmal Sudden onset of escalation or recurrence of pain
- Radiculopathy Shooting pain usually coinciding with the distribution of spinal nerve root (e.g., sciatic pain)
- Physical Dependence  
A state of adaption that is manifested by a drug class specific withdrawal syndrome that can be produced by abrupt cessation, rapid dose reduction, decreasing blood level of the drug, and/or administration of an antagonist (AAPM, APS, ASAM 2001)
- Psychological Dependence (addiction)  
A primary, chronic, neurobiological disease with genetic, psychological, and environmental factors influencing its development and manifestations; characterized by behaviors that include one or more of the following: impaired control over drug use, compulsive use, continued use despite harm and craving (AAPM, APS, ASAM 2001)
- Tolerance A state of adaptation in which exposure to a drug induces changes that result in diminution of one or more of the drug's effects over time (AAPM, APS, ASAM 2001)

## References:

American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM). (2001). *The use of opioids for the treatment of chronic pain*. [Joint consensus statement from the American Academy of Pain Medicine, The American Pain Society, & The American Society of Addictive Medicine]. Retrieved January 24, 2010 from: <http://www.ampainsoc.org/advocacy/opioids.htm>

International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) Task Force on Taxonomy. (1979). Pain terms: A current list with definitions and notes on usage. *Pain*, 6(3), 249-252.