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Chronic pain guideline for primary care

This is the work of a Canadian panel that filtered 74,000 papers to get a summary for chronic pain management of osteoarthritis, low back pain, and neuropathic pain.¹

Figure 1 in the guideline provides a simple summary (the authors suggest this is how guidelines should be reported):

- Placebo is fairly effective 29% to 40%.
- Physical activity is essential for OA and back pain.
- For OA (NZ available drugs) steroid injections, oral and topical NSAIDs.
- Glucosamine and chondroitin are of uncertain benefit as the publicly funded trials found no benefit while the industry-sponsored ones did show benefit.
- For low back pain spinal manipulation, oral NSAIDs, and TCAs.

The authors felt cannabinoids and opiates showed that harms exceeded benefits.

Reference:

1. PEER simplified chronic pain guideline CFP (2022) View

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