

Pain Ethics Charter

German Pain Society - DGSS



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DGSS-President 2003 - 2007

Conflict of Interest:
Grünenthal
Janssen-Cilag
Mundipharma

Pain in Germany

5 - 8 mio with
chronic pain

Ministry of Health 22.12.2003

Pain in Germany

600.000 - 700.000 patients need
special pain treatment by
specialists

Ministry of Health 22.12.2003

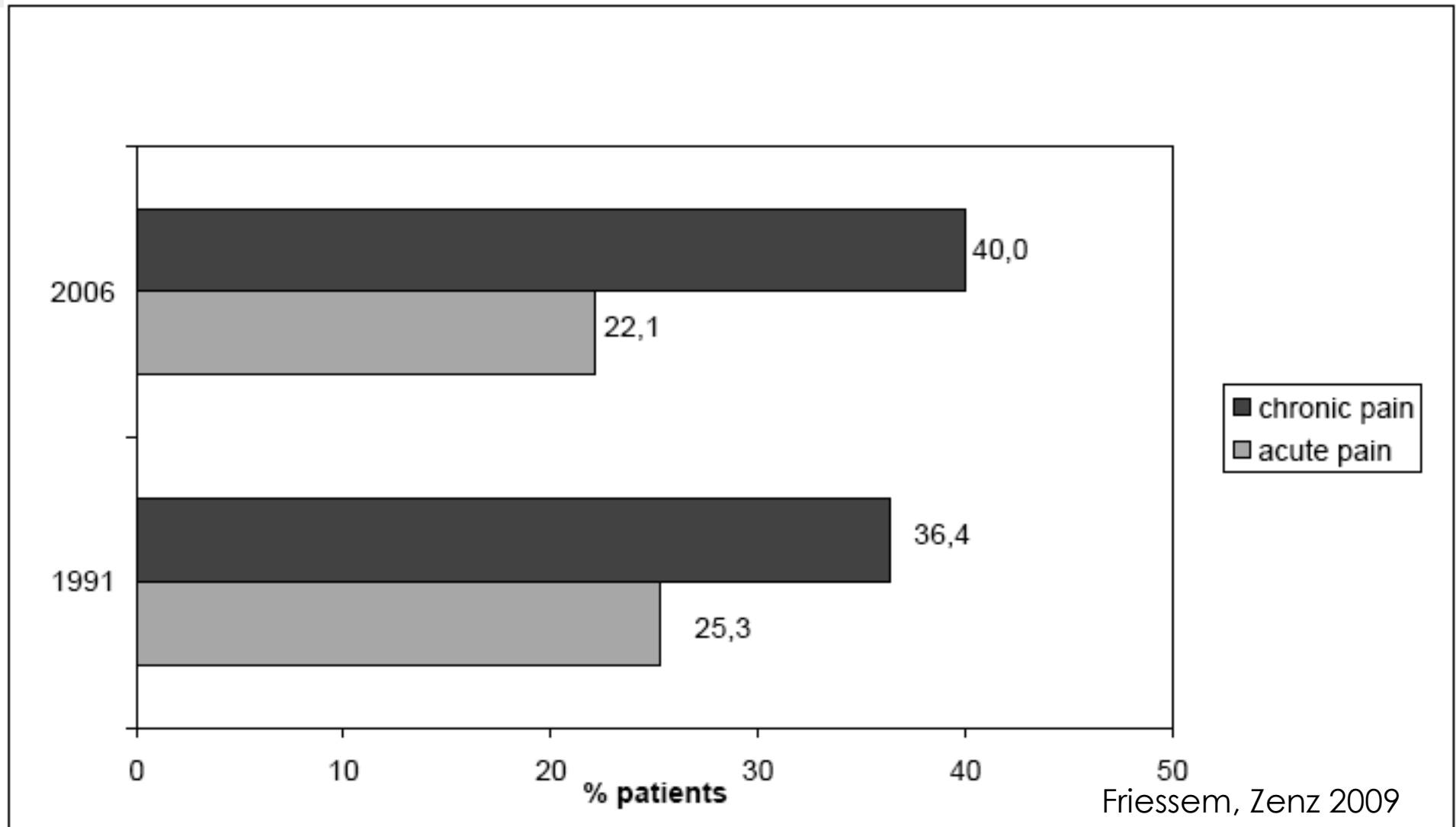
Pain in Germany

Costs:
25 bill. €

Ministry of Health 22.12.2003

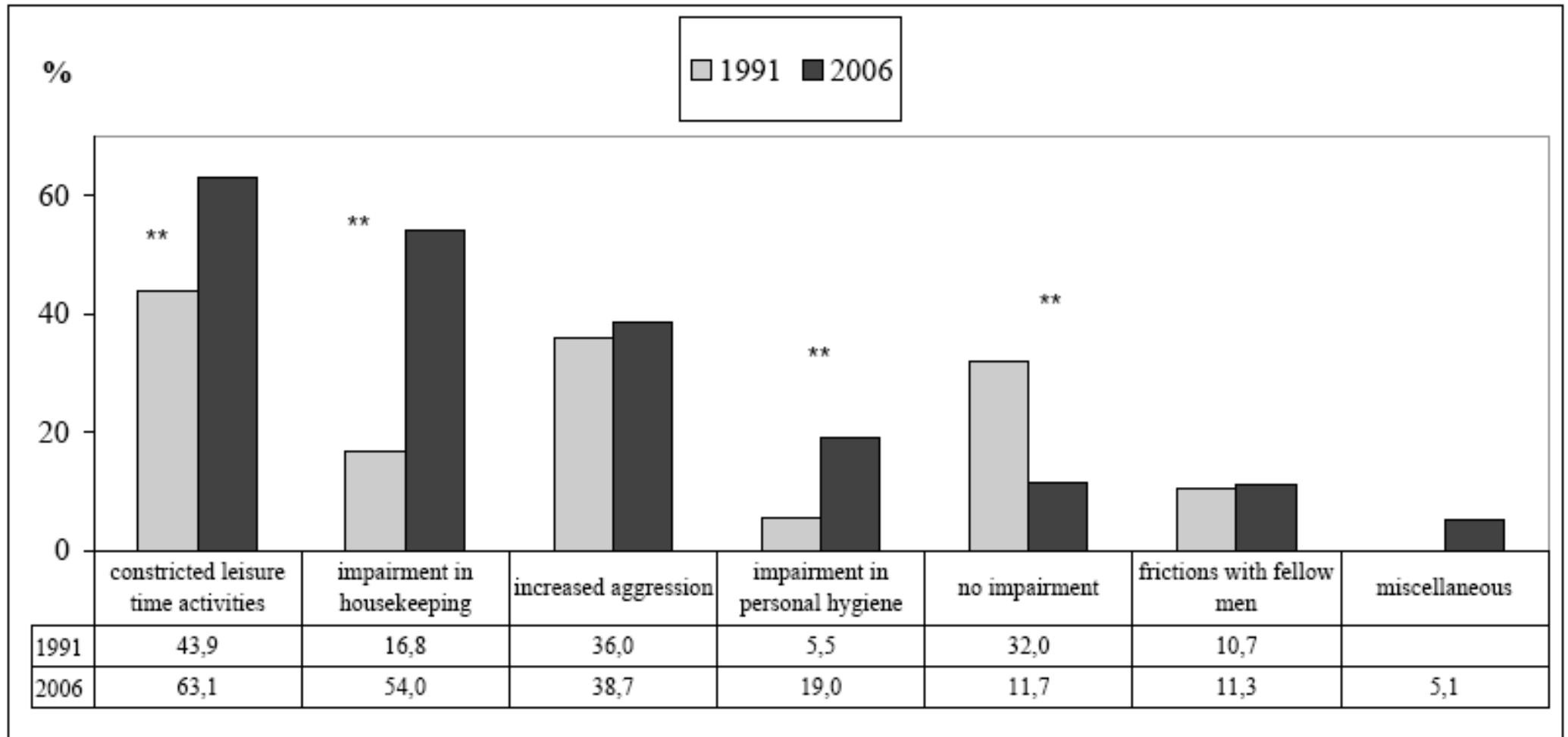
Pain in Germany

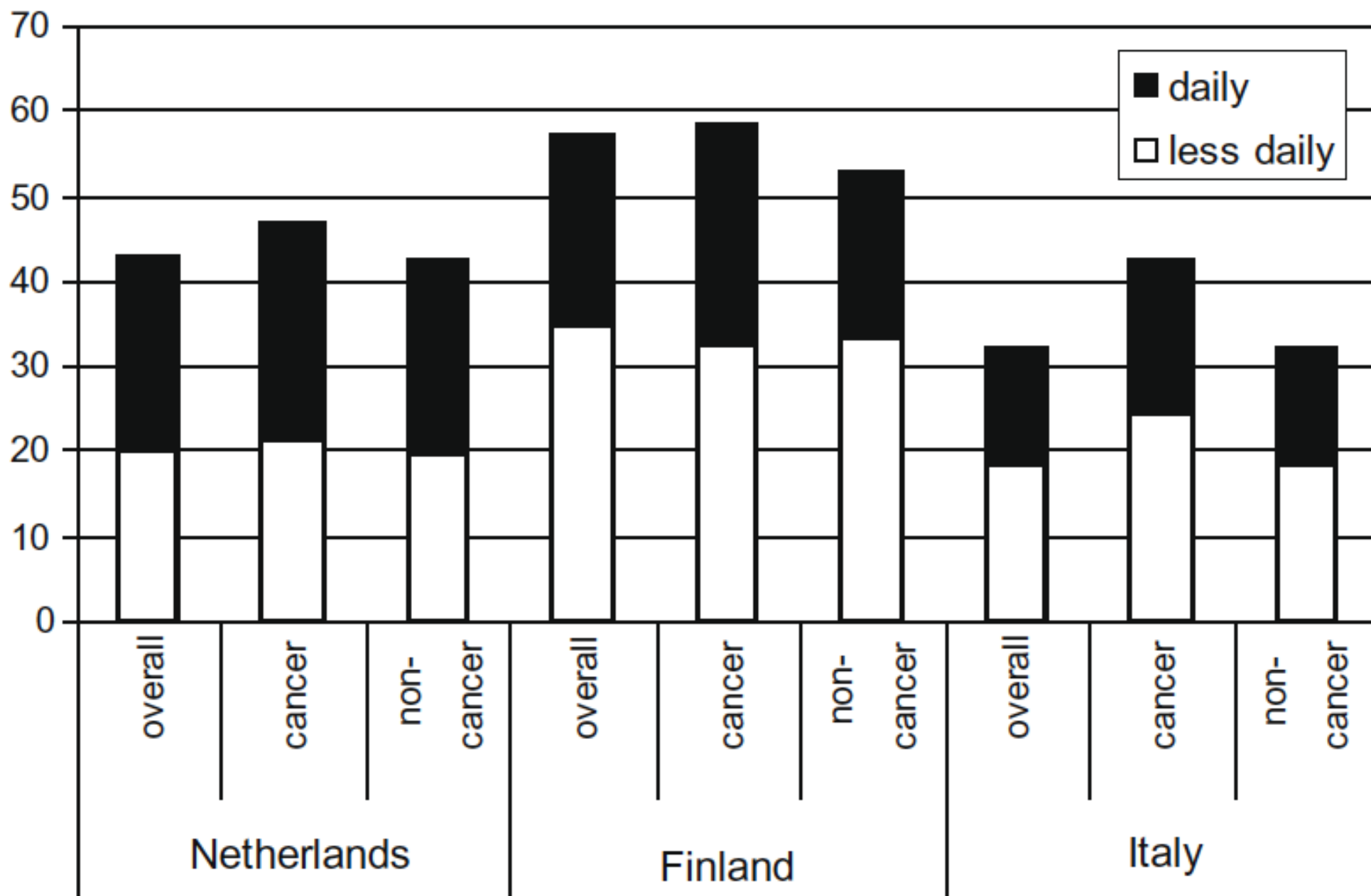
Reason for consultations



Pain in Germany

Impairment by pain





Achterberg et al PAIN 148 (2010) 70-74

Fig. 1. Frequency of pain overall and in cancer and non-cancer patients.

Germany

Support of Euthanasia

7'98

64 % of population

Germany

Support of Euthanasia

7'98

42% of physicians

64 % of population

Germany Support of Euthanasia

2004

55% of physicians
and nurses

Böttger-Kessler 2004

Pain in Germany

Research Funding Costs

Funding	8.04 Mio €
Costs	25 Bill. €

≈ 0,03%

Ministry of Health 22.12.2003

Ethical Principles

Beneficence
Nonmaleficence
Autonomy
Justice

Beauchamp, Childress 1979

200306-002-13

Ethical dilemmas in pain management

We conclude that ethical dilemmas are common in pain management practice and that resolution of these dilemmas requires commitment by individual professionals as well as health systems.

CODE OF
MEDICAL ETHICS
OF THE
American Medical Association.

*ORIGINALLY ADOPTED AT THE ADJOURNED
MEETING OF THE NATIONAL MEDICAL
CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA,
MAY, 1847.*

CHICAGO:
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PRESS
1907.

AMA 1847

In framing a code on this basis, we have the inestimable advantage of deducing its rules from the conduct of the many eminent physicians who have adorned the profession by their learning and their piety. From the age of Hippocrates to the present time, the annals of every civilized people contain abundant evidences of the devotedness of medical men to the relief of their fellow-creatures from pain and disease, regardless of the privation and danger, and not seldom obloquy, encountered in return; a sense of ethical obligations rising superior, in their minds, to considerations of personal advancement. Well and truly was it said by one of the most learned men of the last century: that the duties of a physician were never more beautifully exemplified than in the conduct of Hippocrates, nor more eloquently described than in his writings.

AMA 1847

§ 5. A physician ought not to abandon a patient because the case is deemed incurable; for his attendance may continue to be highly useful to the patient, and comforting to the relatives around him, even in the last period of a fatal malady, by alleviating pain and other symptoms, and by soothing mental anguish. To decline attendance, under such circumstances, would be sacrificing to fanciful delicacy and mistaken liberality, that moral duty, which is independent of, and far superior to all pecuniary consideration.

American Academy of Pain Medicine

ETHICS

CHARTER



German Pain Congress
Berlin 2007



Pain in Germany Pain in Europe

ETHICS CHARTER



DGSS Ethics Charter

Deutsche Gesellschaft zum Studium
des Schmerzes e.V.
(German Pain Society)



Synopsis

Pain Ethics Charter DGSS



Schmerzforum

Schmerz 2008 · 22:[afp]–[alp]
DOI 10.1007/s00482-008-0648-6

S. Reiter-Theil¹ · T. Graf-Baumann² · K. Kutzer³ · H.C. Müller-Busch⁴ · R. Stutzki¹ ·
H.C. Traue⁵ · A. Willweber-Strumpf⁶ · M. Zimmermann⁷ · M. Zenz⁸

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Pain Ethics Charter

Ethics Charter – Synopsis

The DGSS Ethics Charter is a document offering ethical orientation in fundamental questions and special challenges in dealing with pain. It is intended for all those treating pain, accompanying those suffering from pain or those who are themselves affected by pain.

Pain Ethics Charter Background

What Is Pain?

What Is the Purpose of Pain

When Pain Becomes a Disease

How Is Chronic Pain to Be Treated?

How Can Chronic Pain Be Prevented?

Pain and Religion

Interacting with the Dying

Training

Pain Ethics Charter

Background

Acute and Peri-operative pain

Serious deficits

30% of patients dissatisfied with perioperative analgesia.

Postoperative analgesia - early mobilisation, reduced complications

Pain - fifth vital sign

Check adverse-effects and physical function

Postoperative pain treatment – reduced costs.

Every hospital should have its own acute pain service.

Pain Ethics Charter Topics

Research

Monodisciplinary – interdisciplinary therapy

Prophylaxis – Chronification

Cancer Pain

Non-cancer Pain

Alternative methods

Infants and Neonates

Elderly

Pain Ethics Charter Topics

Pain treatment –Common Duty
Undergraduate, Postgraduate Education
Palliative Care
Help for the Dying
Suicide
Pain and Religion
Right to Pain Treatment

Pain Ethics Charter

Legal Principles of Pain Therapy

- Everyone suffering from pain has a right to adequate pain treatment.
- Every patient has a right to a thorough and extensive examination of the cause of the pain and comprehensive diagnosis and therapy, including psychological, psychiatric and social aspects.
- Every patient has the right to being adequately informed by the physician before treatment, i.e. as regards adverse-effects and possible alternatives.
- A prerequisite of pain therapy is the informed consent

Pain Ethics Charter

Legal Principles of Pain Therapy

- There is no right to freedom from pain, only to adequate pain treatment
- Chronic pain is a bio-psycho-social disease requiring an interdisciplinary approach.
- If pain therapy fails in life-threatening diseases, palliative sedation may be indicated.
- Pain treatment in line with medical standards may unintentionally result in terminal patients dying faster.

Pain Ethics Charter

Demands of the German Pain Society

- General pain therapy must be included as an examination for medical students
- Specialised pain therapy must be included as an examination in training regulations.
- For the adequate care of patients in chronic pain a specialist in pain therapy (and palliative medicine) must be available.
- In order to improve research and teaching, a faculty of pain and palliative medicine must be established in every university clinic.
- Everyone involved in pain therapy must be trained to deal with the special issues involved in communicating to pain and palliative patients.

Pain Ethics Charter

Demands of the German Pain Society

- The standing of pain research must be recognised in accordance with its significance.
- Pain diseases must be included in the ICD (International Code of Diseases).
- Pain therapy must be included in the Procedure Catalogue(OPS).
- Pain therapy must be adequately reflected in the Physician Fee Ordinance.
- Every hospital must have structures for adequately treating acute pain.

Pain Ethics Charter

Demands of the German Pain Society

- All patients in pain must be offered an interdisciplinary therapy, when other treatments have failed.
- Palliative medicine must be universally available as an alternative to assisted suicide.

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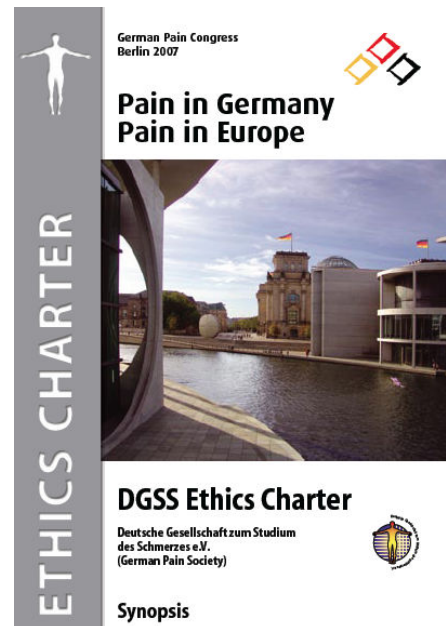
Demands of the German Pain Society

- Health insurance companies, professional associations and pension funds must assume and duly implement their special obligations to pain patients.
- Politicians must fulfill their obligation to set up structures for universal, top-quality pain therapy and palliative care.

Pain Ethics Charter

www.dgss.org/ethics

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