



“Opioids, Cannabis, and Chronic Pain: What Doctors Do & Don’t Know”

What is chronic—versus acute—pain and how is it treated? Gain an understanding of how opioids work, how they can be used safely, and how addiction develops. Discuss what the evidence shows about potential alternative pain treatments, including cannabis, and some of the initiatives in place to address the opioid epidemic.

James Wolf, M.D., assistant professor of anesthesiology at the University of Vermont’s Larner College of Medicine, is a board-certified anesthesiologist and pain medicine specialist for the University of Vermont Health Network. Currently the medical director of Champlain Valley Physician’s Hospital Intervention Pain Service in Plattsburgh, N.Y., he also serves as the interventional pain rotation director at the UVM Medical Center’s Comprehensive Pain Program in South Burlington. Wolf received his medical degree from the State University of New York, Downstate College of Medicine, as well as completing an anesthesiology residency and a Pain Medicine fellowship at the University of Vermont Medical Center. Wolf is currently investigating the feasibility of using sphenopalatine ganglion block to treat post epidural puncture headaches. He teaches within the Bridge Clerkships, most recently in the case-based learning session “Opioids and Chronic Pain Management.”

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