

20th Feb Synopsis on “ Surgical Pain Management” – A talk for the Singapore Orthopaedics Society

“Pain is a more terrible lord of mankind than even death itself” Albert Schweitzer. Pain is one of the commonest presenting symptoms to a doctor and its prevalence in any population (based on Australian, US, European epidemiological studies) is 20%, of which surgical pain constitutes a large proportion. Up to 70% of cancer patient have pain. Most patients may not be afraid to confront death, but fear the pain that is associated with cancer.

Pain is now recognized as the fifth vital sign in many parts of the world, and is now also being introduced to Singapore. This talk focuses on the evidenced based approach to managing common acute, chronic and cancer surgical pain, and is meant to be interactive. We will also attempt to answer some of the common questions asked like: “ Is acupuncture useful in treating pain” ; “ Is morphine addictive in treating pain”. Some common interventional modalities for pain management will be discussed. Real life case studies of some surgical(orthopaedics) patients will also be presented.

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