



**Contributor** David J. Hewitt, MD  
Director, Neuroscience/Analgesia Research, Johnson & Johnson,  
Route 202, PO Box 300, Raritan, NJ 08869-060, USA.  
E-mail: dhewitt@ompus.jnj.com

### Acute and Chronic Pain

<http://www.pain.com/>

This is an excellent site that has been previously mentioned in this journal. It consists of articles that are relevant to the world of acute and chronic pain. There are a number of informative slide shows on subjects such as drug diversion, pain assessment, and controversies in opioid use. There are recent interviews of experts in the field concerning important subjects such as the use of oral opioids. There is valuable information on this site, including notices of upcoming meetings of various pain societies. There are helpful referrals to other valuable resources, including the drug interaction program at drugstore.com.

**Access requirement:** None.

**Date last updated:** Daily.

### Pain Prevention

<http://www.partnersagainstpain.com/html/main/>

This is the Partners Against Pain site. It is an excellent site sponsored by Purdue Pharma L.P (Stamford, CT). The information is current; there is great information on pain and addiction and important resource material, including the joint statement by the Drug Enforcement Agency and 21 medical societies endorsing the use of opioids for patients with chronic pain. Purdue has been in the midst of controversy regarding their drug, OxyContin. A review of their web site will indicate that they take the prescribing of opioids analgesics seriously and are aware of the potential for benefit and harm associated with their drug. Purdue has been a major advocate for patients who have often been ignored by physicians and the healthcare system. This site has valuable information for patients, physicians, and caregivers and demonstrates their commitment to pain and palliative care.

**Access requirement:** None.

**Date last updated:** Regularly.

### Journal Links

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/>

This is the web site for ScienceDirect, which allows access to more than 1200 peer-reviewed academic journals from Elsevier Science. There are links to articles from more than 80 publishers and one can search more than 30 million abstracts from scientific articles. Anyone interested in obtaining an article regarding pain can access recent volumes of *Pain*. This is a fun site to peruse because many nonmedical and medical journals are available. I found the search engine to be easy to use.

**Access requirement:** None.

**Date last updated:** April 15, 2002.

### Cancer Pain

<http://www.cancer-pain.org/>

This is a well-designed site for professionals, patients, and their advocates. There are easy-to-use instruments available that can help patients evaluate and discuss their pain with a physician. This is a site that helps empower patients with cancer and their caregivers to improve their quality of life. I particularly liked their "Zero Acceptance of Pain" program. Cancer-pain.org has been developed by

the Association of Cancer Online Resources. Input and advice from patients, caregivers, and an Advisory Board of healthcare professionals have made this an important site to keep in mind. Their aim is to help patients with cancer receive the pain treatment they deserve. The site offers in-depth information to assist in decision making for pain management; there are interactive discussion groups to help patients determine what will work for them. The content of the site is developed in consultation with an Editorial and Medical Advisory Board.

**Access requirement:** None.

**Date last updated:** May 16, 2002.

### **Spinal Disorders**

<http://www.spineuniverse.com>

---

This is the most comprehensive site on the spine I have encountered thus far. The site is user-friendly and informative. Information is accessed through a series of drop-down menus that cover subjects from conditions to therapeutic interventions. Importantly, the site stresses prevention and the importance of exercise and physical activity. The technology section is great for healthcare professionals, with up-to-date information on diagnostic and therapeutic techniques. This is a site that should not be missed.

**Access requirement:** None.

**Date last updated:** May 7, 2002.

### **Women's Health**

<http://www.obgyn.net/>

---

This is an excellent site on women's health. It covers a number of subjects, including an excellent section on pelvic pain. This site is divided into sections for women, medical professionals, and industry. There is a link to UltraMed, a medical search engine that can be used to find journal articles. A current calendar of events is available and lists up-coming meetings. The site has its own search engine through which topics can be investigated. There are some technical forums that are primarily for healthcare professionals. There are videos from professional conferences available. This is one of the best sites for professionals and patients that I have seen.

**Access requirement:** None.

**Date last updated:** Regularly.

### **Back Pain**

<http://www.spine-health.com/>

---

This is another comprehensive site. There are links to sites on which patients can shop for products that may be helpful for back care. This site is a valuable resource for patients, with clear and concise information on back problems. The articles and explanations are short, but informative. There is a search engine that can help patients find a physician. There is a section on clinical trials and articles on recent developments in spine research. This site uses a drop-down menu that allows access to important subjects, including back and neck pain associated with auto accidents and failed back syndrome.

**Access requirement:** None.

**Date last updated:** May 24, 2002.

### **Drug Information**

<http://www.drugstore.com>

---

This is the site of an online drug store. I mention this site because it is a resource for patients who would like to obtain information about medications and drug interactions. As the number of medications increases, so does the possibility of significant drug interactions. It is good for patients to have a place to consult if there may be interactions between the drugs they are taking. It provides a quick resource for patients who would like to know if there are any precautions and side effects associated with their medications. This site also allows patients to buy their medications online.

**Access requirement:** None.

**Date last updated:** Regularly.