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Omega-3 fatty acids: A novel approach for pain treatment

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The treatment of acute and chronic severe pain remains a common major challenge faced by clinicians working with the general population, and even after recent advances in the treatment of acute and chronic severe pain, there can continue to be manifestations of adverse effects. Chronic pain affects the personal and social life of the patient, and often also their families. In some cases, after an acute pain the patient continues to experience chronic pain, which can be a result of diseases such as cancer. There is growing evidence that omega-3 fatty acids can contribute to the reduction of pain. This presentation will describe an innovative technological development, both in its pharmaceutical composition (either morphine or methadone with omega-3 fatty acids) and in the pharmacological treatments associated with its use. In addition, the preclinical evidence concerning the analgesic effects of omega-3 fatty acids (eicosapentaenoic acid and docosahexaenoic acid) will also be explored. The main advantage of new pharmacological treatments using these pharmaceutical compositions lies in an improved pain control with a sub-therapeutic dose of these opioids, which can lead to the elimination or at least potential reduction of adverse effects.

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