

A Comparative Study of Pain Management in Vaso-Occlusive Crisis within the United States and West Africa

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Over the past twenty years, many strides have been made in the prevention and management of vaso-occlusive crisis in sickle cell patients. Though methods of analgesics in pain management have improved greatly within the United States, disagreement among physicians within the international community exists concerning acceptable analgesics in the pain management. This study investigated the differences in the methods employed in pain management within the United States and West Africa. *The Survey of Emergency Department Management of Sickle Cell Pain Crisis* was utilized to assess popular method practiced by healthcare providers in the treatment of sickle cell pain crisis within the United States and West Africa. Significant differences were found in the analgesics of choice for both inpatient and outpatient management. Physicians within the United States reported utilizing opioids as a first line drug of choice in both inpatient and outpatient situations. However, physicians practicing within West Africa reported the usage of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents in both situations. Within the United States the vast majority of physician reported that patient requests influenced their choice of prescription, whereas few physicians in West Africa reported that patient requests influenced their choice.