

River Cities Interventional Pain Specialists

Since 2004 Dr. Randall P. Brewer has been in clinical private practice in Shreveport, Louisiana and maintains academic appointments at Duke University and Louisiana State University, where he routinely lectures in the areas of Pain Medicine and clinical Neuroscience in the Department of Neurology and the Medical school. He is board certified by the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Board of Pain Medicine, and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Dr. Brewer and his multi-disciplinary team of highly skilled nurses and physician extenders provide comprehensive pain management treatment solutions to treat chronic pain disorders. The team works collaboratively with patients and area providers to develop individualized treatment plans and attainable goals. . These strategies help patients to effectively address a wide range of chronic pain disorders.

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TOP TEN QUESTIONS ABOUT...



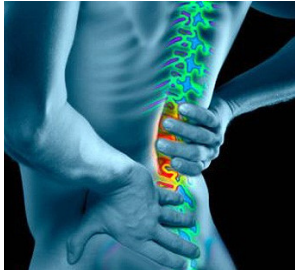
**THE SPECIALTY
OF PAIN
MANAGEMENT**

TOP TEN QUESTIONS ABOUT... THE SPECIALTY OF PAIN MANAGEMENT

1. What should I expect at my visit to a Pain Management specialist?

Pain Management specialists evaluate and treat a variety of painful conditions.

The types of conditions treated may vary according to the expertise and training of the physician. Before your appointment, you will be informed about what to expect from your particular doctor.



2. What kind of treatments do Pain specialists offer?

Pain specialists offer a variety of treatments which are tailored to the needs of the individual patient. Medications, physical therapy, exercise techniques, and a variety of specialized procedures are used to treat pain.

3. What kinds of pain do Pain specialists treat?

Actually, there are two main types of pain which may be treated by a Pain specialist. Acute pain is related to a specific event or exacerbation of pain. Examples of acute pain include pain after surgery, pain after trauma, migraines, and acute low back pain.

Chronic pain is a condition that lasts longer than acute pain. Generally, chronic pain is pain that lasts greater than 3 months after an initial episode of acute pain.

4. What types of chronic pain are there?

Two main types of chronic pains are treated by Pain Specialists.

Nociceptive pain is pain that does not come from nerve problems, but arises from other tissues. Conditions such as chronic low back pain, neck pain, fibromyalgia, and arthritic pains are examples of “nociceptive” pain.

Neuropathic pain is pain that comes from nerve problems. Examples of neuropathic pain include neuropathy (especially diabetes-related neuropathy), shingles, and back and leg pain that persists after a back injury or back surgery.

5. I heard that Pain specialists primarily treat patients with medications, especially narcotics. Is that true?

It is true that a significant proportion of patients that require “narcotics” for their pain control may need to see a pain specialist. Pain specialists use a variety of other medications and treatment strategies as well. Your particular condition, your preferences and experiences, and your discussion with your physician will determine which approach is the best for your condition.

6. Can any doctor be a Pain Management specialist?

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7. What does it mean to be “certified” in Pain Management?

Pain Management is considered to be a “Subspecialty.” This means that a physician must be “board-certified” in a primary specialty prior to training and certification in Pain Management. The most common primary specialization for certification in Pain Management is Anesthesiology. Others include Neurology and Physical Medicine. Physicians in other specialties, such as internal medicine, may also choose to undergo additional training in Pain Management.

8. Do pain specialists treat headaches?

Headaches are so common that most primary physicians treat headaches. Severe or complicated headache disorders often require the assistance or direction of a Headache Specialist. Most headache specialists are neurologists which may or may not also specialize in the treatment of other pain problems.

9. Do pain specialists treat fibromyalgia?

Fibromyalgia is quite commonly treated by primary care physicians. The initial evaluation of fibromyalgia commonly involves consultation with a Rheumatologist, a specialist in disorders of joint, muscles, and connective tissues. The rheumatologist may offer chronic treatment of fibromyalgia or recommend treatment options to your primary care physicians. Many Pain specialists also treat fibromyalgia according to their interest and expertise.

10. I am a patient in a pain clinic and I have a contract to not get medications from other doctors. What happens if I have to see a doctor for another pain problem?

This is a very common scenario. Most “contracts” with pain doctors allow patients to seek treatment for acute pain and pain related to new or worsening conditions that are not the primary chronic pain condition. It is very important for you and your physician to communicate early and as often as necessary about any new condition for which you need to seek treatment. Upcoming surgical and dental procedures, in particular, should be specifically brought to the attention of your Pain specialist.