Pain in the Elderly

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The International Association for the Study of Pain and its Task Force on Pain in the Elderly are pleased to announce publication of Pain in the Elderly. This book outlines approaches to specific geriatric pain problems. Elderly people are the fastest growing segment of the world population, and consume the majority of health resources in many countries. Persistent pain is very common in elderly patients both because of the cumulative effect of progression of chronic painful diseases and because the frequency of many painful conditions increases with age. Individual elderly patients differ widely with respect to physiologic, psychologic, and socio-economic characteristics. Defining and treating pain in the elderly is often complicated by the existence of multiple medical problems and the increased incidence of treatment related side-effects. This clinically oriented review will be helpful in practice and will serve as an impetus for additional education, research, and clinical concern for geriatric patients who suffer acute and chronic pain.

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A series of refresher courses was held in conjunction with the 8th World Congress on Pain in Vancouver in August 1996, and a detailed syllabus prepared. This book should be useful to anyone who wishes to upgrade his/her basic knowledge in the pain field.

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ABSTRACTS

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The book of abstracts of the 8th World Congress on Pain (Vancouver, August 1996), contains abstracts of the plenary papers, free communications and topical workshops that were presented at the congress, approximately 1,500 in all. This book is useful as a general overview of ongoing research (basic and clinical) and treatment in all aspects of the pain field, as updated at the triennial congress of the International Association for the Study of Pain.

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