

Accepted Manuscript

Title: Prospective evaluation of chronic pain disorders and treatments

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PII: S0165-0270(17)30408-9

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneumeth.2017.11.020>

Reference: NSM 7905

To appear in: *Journal of Neuroscience Methods*

Received date: 14-8-2017

Revised date: 23-10-2017

Accepted date: 29-11-2017



Please cite this article as: Vierck Charles J, Chapman C.Richard.Prospective evaluation of chronic pain disorders and treatments.*Journal of Neuroscience Methods* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneumeth.2017.11.020>

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Prospective evaluation of chronic pain disorders and treatments

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Highlights

- Discussion of difficulties with traditional between-group research designs.
- There is a need for mechanistic analyses of pain and therapeutic effectiveness.
- Importance of discovering therapeutic effectiveness, rather than efficacy.
- Critical difficulties associated with placebo control groups.
- Revealing and understanding variability rather than obscuring it with randomization.
- Unique demands of investigating and treating chronic pain, compared to acute pain.

Abstract

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