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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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