Chronic pain patients may be more susceptible to COVID-19.
Elderly patients and those with multiple comorbidities are particularly susceptible.
Chronic opioid therapy may cause immune suppression in some patients.
Use of steroids in interventional pain procedures may induce immune suppression.


**URGENT PROCEDURES**
- Suspend elective procedures, use telemedicine if possible
- Determine elective or urgent procedures on a case-by-case basis.
- **URGENT PROCEDURES:**
  - ITP refills and malfunction
  - Device infection; deep infection -> explant

**SEMI-URGENT PROCEDURES**
- Evaluate other cases on individual basis, shared decision making.
- Goal: avoid deterioration of function, reliance on opioids, or emergency room (ER) visits, which increase risk of exposure.
  - Procedural scenarios include, but not limited to, the following:
    1. Intractable cancer pain
    2. Acute herpes zoster or subacute, intractable post-herpetic neuralgia
    3. Acute herniated disc and/or worsening lumbar radiculopathy
    4. Intractable trigeminal neuralgia
    5. Early complex regional pain syndrome
    6. Acute cluster headaches and other intractable headache conditions
    7. Other intractable, medically resistant pain syndromes

**OPIOIDS**
- Use telemedicine to evaluate and continue opioid Rx
- Ensure existing Rx to avoid withdrawal
- Provide naloxone education and Rx for high-risk patients
- DEA-registered practitioners can issue Rx for pts without in-person evaluation if
  1) legitimate medical purpose
  2) audio/visual, real-time, two-way interactive communication system
  3) in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

**STEROIDS**
- Steroids increase potential for adrenal insufficiency and altered immune response.
- Joints corticosteroid injection shown to be associated with higher risk of influenza.
- Duration of immune suppression could be less with the use of dexamethasone and betamethasone.
- Consider evaluating risks/benefits of steroid injections and use a decreased dose, especially in high-risk patient populations.

Visit www.asra.com/covid19 for more COVID-19 resources.