

Special Issue

Topical Drug Delivery in the Treatment of Pain

Message from the Guest Editor

The comprehensive treatment of pain is multimodal, with pharmacotherapy playing a key role. This Themed Issue “Topical Drug Delivery in the Treatment of Pain” is aimed at presenting current knowledge on analgesics administered by topical routes for healthcare professionals dealing with patients with pain. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs applied topically are the main mechanism of action and are based on a high concentration in the structures of the joint and a provision of local anti-inflammatory effects. Topically administered drugs such as lidocaine and capsaicin in patches, capsaicin in cream, EMLA cream, and creams containing antidepressants, i.e., doxepin, and amitriptyline act mainly locally in tissues through receptors and/or ion channels. Topically administered opioids are characterized by a lower risk of addiction compared to systemic routes. Topical routes offer some advantages over systemic analgesic administration. Analgesics administered topically have a much better profile for adverse effects as they relieve local pain with minimal systemic effects.

Guest Editor

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