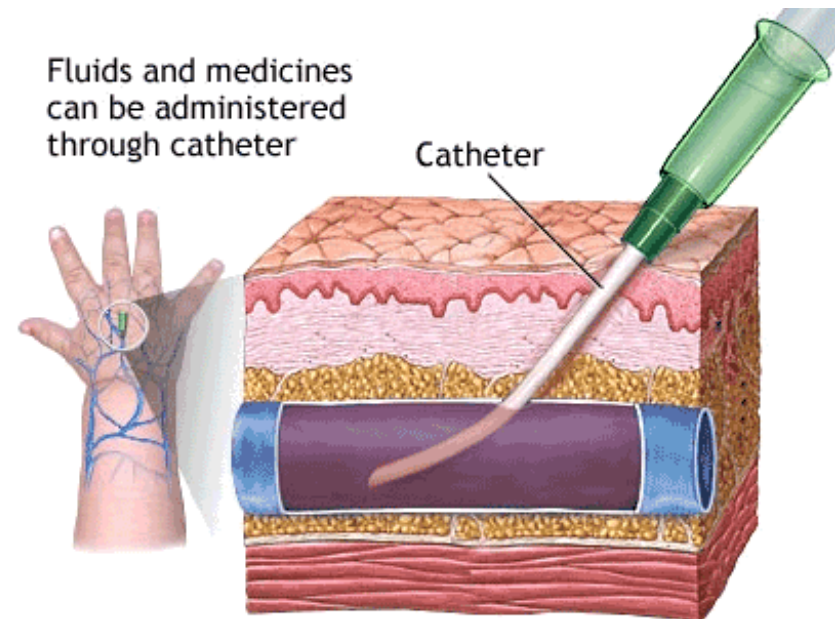
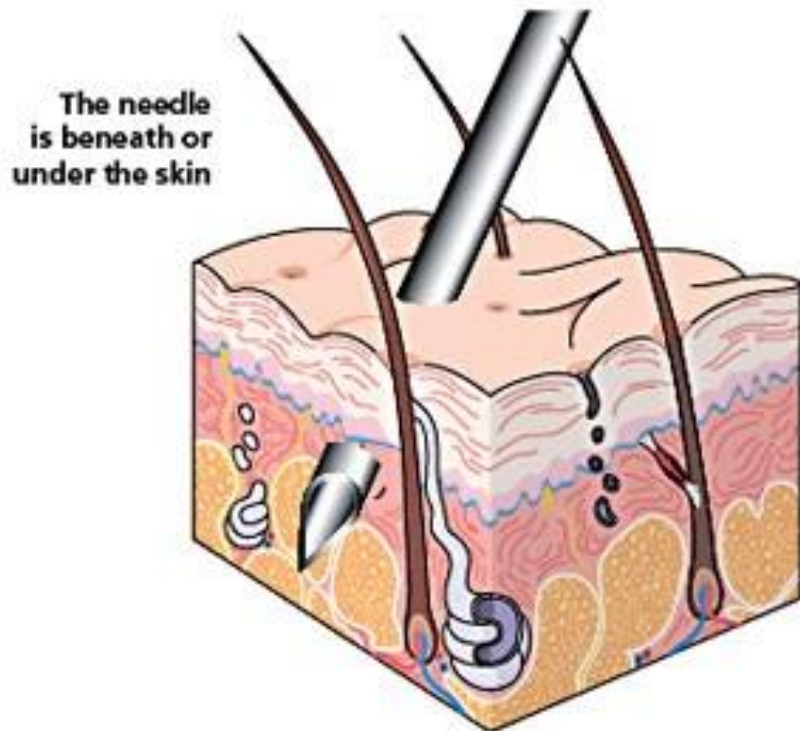


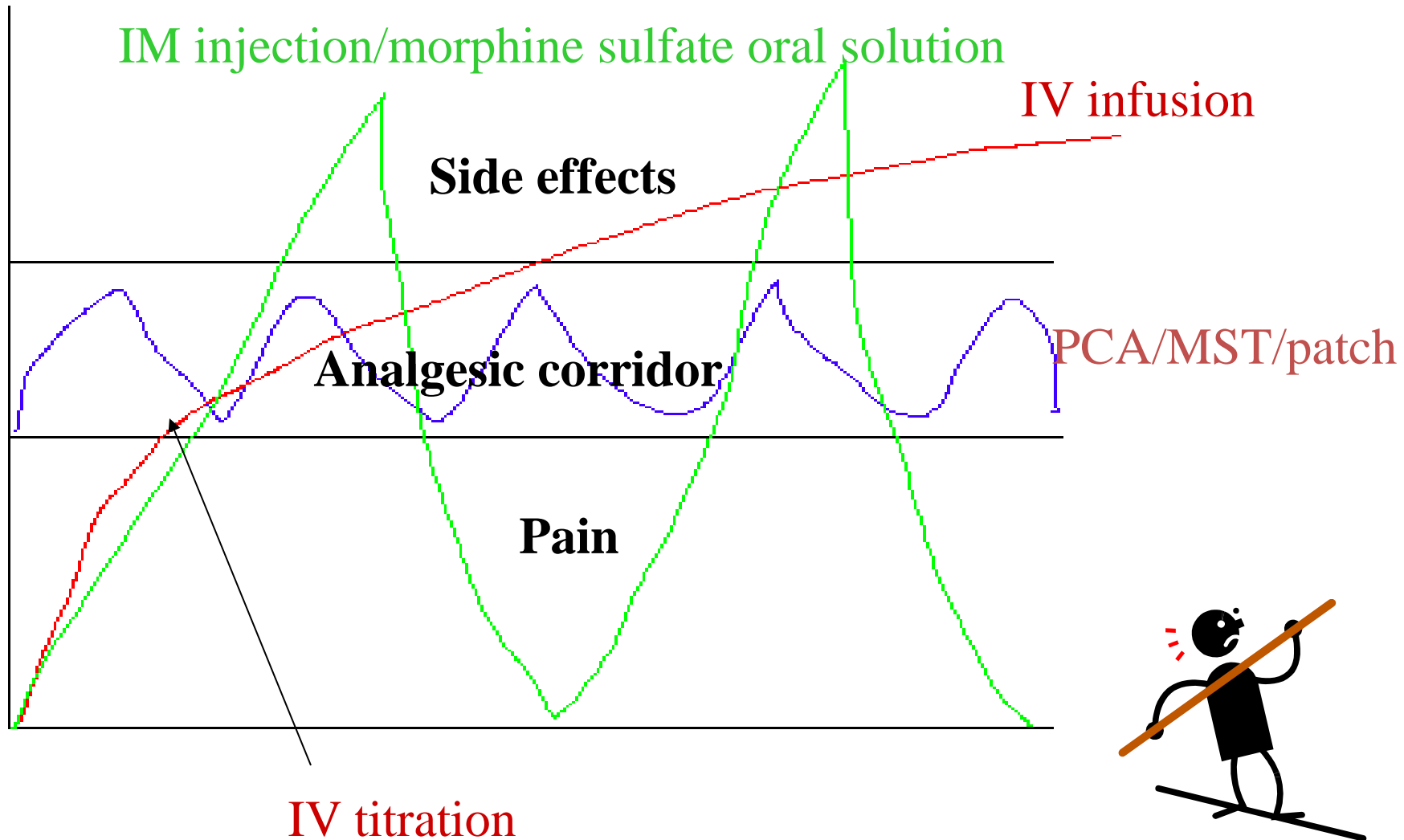
Superior

Oxford English Dictionary

Higher in rank, status, or quality



Our ongoing quest:



What about the evidence?

Data on the effectiveness of SC PCA compared with IV PCA are variable and inconsistent.

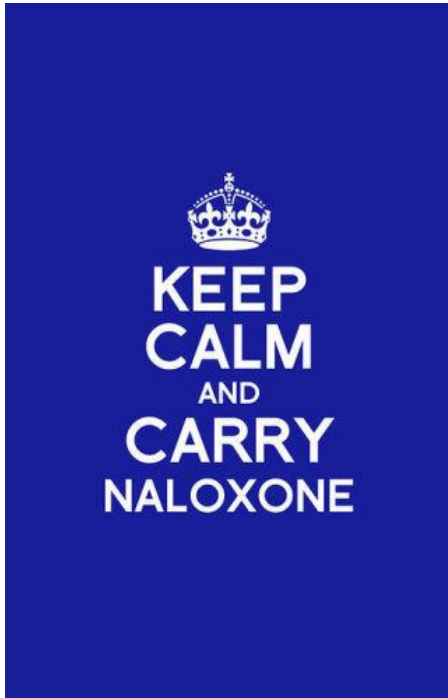
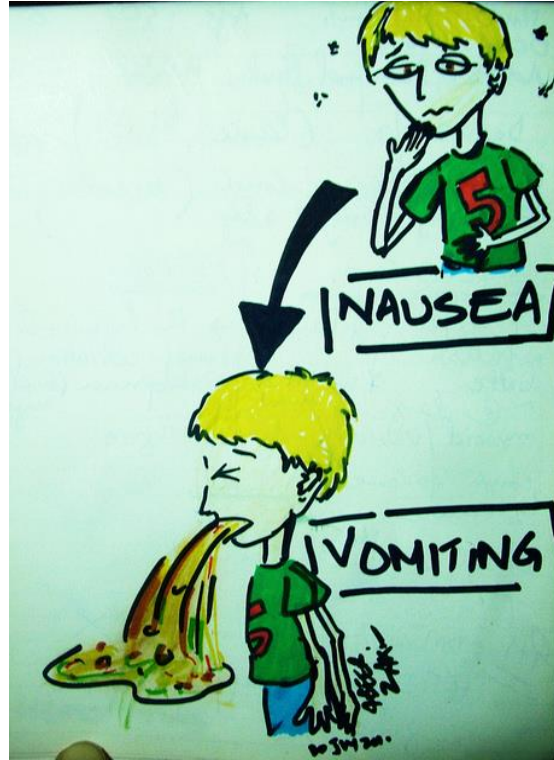
Both **similar** and **significantly better pain relief** has been reported, as well as the **same** and a **higher** incidence of nausea and vomiting.

Compared with IV PCA, SC PCA may or may not result in higher opioid use.

Side-effects of opioids



Zzzzzz



IV PCA

Advantages

- Fast
- Reliable delivery
- Predictable absorption



Disadvantages

- Invasive procedure can cause infection, phlebitis, air embolism, foreign body etc etc
- More costly than oral or one off injectable (IM, SC) substances
- One IV site has a limited use/time: usually no more than 72 hours.

SC PCA



Advantages

- Preserves precious IV access for other things
- Facilitates PCA opioid when oral and IV routes are not an option
- PCA pumps are licensed for SC administration

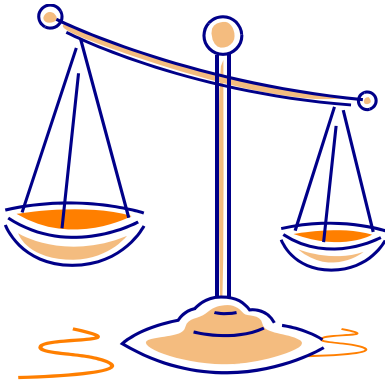
Disadvantages

- Slower absorption time means longer lock out
- Variable effect depending on tissue perfusion
- Invasive technique with risk of infection e.g. cellulitis
- Patency of available IV access may be less vigilantly maintained

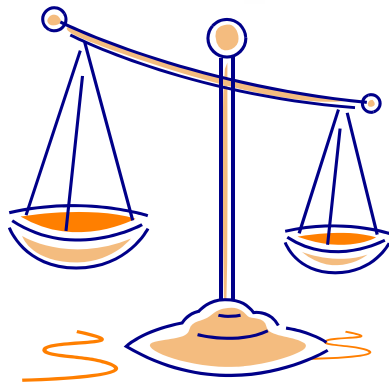
IV PCA the Gold standard



- Timely
- Accurate
- Predictable
- Consistent
- Ensures IV access available for naloxone etc.



SC superior to IV?



VOTE NO!