

# TREATMENT AND TAXONOMY OF CANCER PAIN – IS THERE A NEED FOR A NEW APPROACH?

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## TERAPIJA I TAKSONOMIJA KANCERSKOG BOLA – DA LI JE POTREBAN NOV PRISTUP?

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### ABSTRACT

According to the International Association for the Study of Pain, pain is categorized according to: its location, involved organ or tissue system, temporal pattern, intensity and etiology. Cancer pain could not be classified according to etiology and pathophysiology only. A distinct taxonomy of cancer pain is therefore warranted, because a unique group of syndromes, therapies and other etiologies of pain occur in this setting. This paper reviewed a variety of current approaches for the classification of cancer pain. Currently, the World Health Organization (WHO) three-step analgesic ladder is the gold standard for therapy of cancer pain predominantly based on the etiology, pathophysiology and location of the symptoms. As the mechanisms of pain become more evident, especially at the cellular level, perhaps a true mechanistic taxonomy can be developed replacing the three-step ladder with a more complex approach.

**Key words:** pain, classification, carcinoma

### SAŽETAK

Prema IASP (International Association for the Study of Pain), bol se klasifikuje prema: lokalizaciji, zahvaćenosti sistema organa ili tkiva, dužini trajanja, intenzitetu i etiologiji. Korišćenjem ovog sistema, zasnovanog na etiologiji i patofiziologiji, razumevanje kancerskog bola nije potpuno. Precizna taksonomija kancerskog bola je neophodna jer ona obuhvata i posebnu grupu sindroma, terapija i drugih etioloških faktora. Ovaj rad prikazuje različite pristupe u klasifikaciji kancerskog bola. Postojeća trostepena analgetska lestvica, određena od Svetske zdravstvene organizacije (The World Health Organization - WHO) u čijoj osnovi dominiraju etiologija, patofiziologija i lokalizacija simptoma, je zlatni standard u terapiji kancerskog bola. Kako su mehanizmi bola postali jasniji, posebno na ćelijskom nivou, moguće je postaviti pravu taksonomiju mehanizma bola, menjajući i trostepenu lestvicu kompleksnijim pristupom u lečenju.

**Ključne reči:** bol, klasifikacija, karcinom