### Approach

**Total Score:**
- Total of 3 Screening Tool Pain Answers:
  - No Pain (+1)
  - Mild (+2)
  - Moderate (+3)
  - Severe (+4)
  - Very Severe (+5)

**Stages I-III:** Higher emphasis on adjuvant analgesic such as PT/OT, complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) (i.e. acupuncture/massage), ice/heat, local anesthetics.

**Stage IV:** Review overall effects of pain on quality of life (QOL) and benefits verses side effects of opioid therapy if it is being considered. Discuss implications for overall disease management (i.e. expectation for patient that pain will increase or get worse, involvement of palliative care team for ongoing management). Patient teaching that pain may not completely go away. Goal may be to make tolerable while weighing side effects of therapy. Continue to reassess/affirm that goals center on patient’s comfort, function and safety.

**Geriatric:** May be advantageous for patient if family or caregiver keeps a diary of the pain (how much and when) and have patient complete pain screen at home in a comfortable environment. When these are then brought to appointments, provides more useful information improving the strategy to address the pain.

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### References:

- NIH, Cancer Pain (PDQ®)–Health Professional Version
- Livestrong, Pain Management
- ASCO Answers, Managing Pain
- NIH, Pain

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### Notes

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