

## Journal Watch

### **Letter to the Editor: Use of an Abbreviated Form of the Edmonton Staging System in a Hospice Setting.**

Russell P, Crook R, Oxenham D. J Pain & Symptom Manage 2006; 31(3):193-4.

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#### **Abstract:**

In this short letter the authors provide background information on their use of the Edmonton Staging System (ESS) for Cancer Pain and results of an analysis of an abbreviated ESS. They conclude that using these assessments is important for clinical, research and administrative outcomes.

#### **Comments:**

##### Strengths/uniqueness:

The authors used a simple easily reproduced approach to compare outcomes using different versions of the ESS.

##### Weaknesses:

There is insufficient data to understand the nature of the study population.

The outcome measures are only partially described.

There is missing information for many patients.

The definition for stable pain control is unusual.

##### Relevance to Palliative Care:

Confirmation that the concept of an assessment tool to compare cancer pain populations has relevance in settings other than the one in which it was developed.