

Future Research Priorities

don't
“If you ~~can't~~ measure it,
you can't improve it.”

1. If you are doing a study, also measure costs.
 - Only 4 US-based cost-effectiveness analyses of nonpharmacologic therapies for pain
 - Measure both upfront and ongoing healthcare costs
 - If possible capture both diagnosis-specific and other costs
 - Also, measure the effects on productivity

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2. Identify and target high-impact chronic pain
 - “associated with substantial restriction of participation in work, social, and self-care activities”
 - The biggest effects and cost impacts seem to come from reducing high-impact chronic pain
 - Some nonpharmacologic therapies seem to do better than others with high-impact chronic pain

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3. Expand the use of economic modeling

“essentially, all models are wrong, but some are useful”

George E.P. Box 1919-2013, Statistician

- Allow a synthesis of all available evidence
 - Can balance baseline sample mixes across studies
- Simulate experiments; help target needed trials
- Allow inclusion of economic outcomes when not directly measured