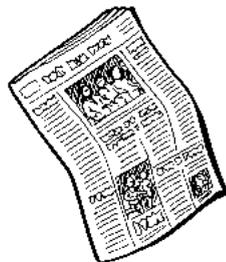


# California and National News

## **Well-Known Pain Researcher Discovered To Have Published Fraudulent Data:**

Scott Reuben, M.D., a pioneer in multimodal analgesia, allegedly has falsified results in at least 21 of his published studies, including some in *Anesthesiology* and *Anesthesia and Analgesia*, over the past 13 years. These papers advocated for multimodal analgesia in minimally invasive orthopedic and spine procedures. Steven Shafer, M.D., editor of *Anesthesia and Analgesia*, declared that because of the extensive acceptance of Reuben's research in pain management that a huge body of knowledge will have to be reexamined, reconsidered, and restudied. Multimodal analgesia still may prove to be a valuable tool in the armamentarium of postoperative analgesia, but this research fraud will call into question many of the therapeutic regimens currently deployed worldwide. Such research fraud and lack of integrity is a stunning breach of research ethics.



**Sharpies Found Safe for Marking Surgical Site:** Despite Terrill Owen's misuse and mockery of Sharpie marking pens (used for autographs because they don't smudge and last a long time), Sharpies have been found to be useful and safe in the operating room. Accrediting bodies now require surgeons to mark surgical sites, after which the traditional felt tip marking pen (on which bacteria will be transferred from patient to patient) has been discarded in order to avoid transfer of bacteria from one patient to another. Sharpies, however, can be safely reused because the ink is alcohol based, as long as the barrel of the Sharpie is cleaned with an alcohol swab between patients. The attribute of Sharpies, but not felt tip pens, was reported at a joint meeting of the American Society for Microbiology and the Infectious Disease Society of America. Hospitals and surgery centers should be able to save significant money with this information. (*Proto*, Spring 2009, page 13.)

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