

Pain Terms and Taxonomies

-**Allodynia:** pain due to a stimulus that does not normally provoke pain or elicit a painful response.

-**Anesthesia dolorosa:** spontaneous pain in an area or region that is anesthetic. Literal translation meaning “painful numbness.”

-this occurs when the trigeminal nerve is damaged in a way that the sense of touch is diminished or eliminated while a malfunctioning sensation of pain is left intact. AD is referred to as a deafferentation pain syndrome.

-**Catastrophizing:** a cognitive and emotional process that involves magnification of pain-related stimuli, feelings of helplessness, and a negative orientation to pain and life circumstances. ***Catastrophizing has been shown to be an important predictor of response to both acute and chronic pain.***

-**Central pain:** pain initiated or caused by a primary lesion or dysfunction in the central nervous system.

-**Central sensitization:** increase in the excitability and responsiveness of neurons in the spinal cord.

-**Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, type 1 (formerly Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy):** a syndrome that usually develops after an initiating noxious event, is not limited to the distribution of a single peripheral nerve, and is apparently disproportionate to the inciting event. It is associated at some point with evidence of edema, changes in skin blood flow, abnormal pseudomotor activity in the region of the pain, or allodynia or hyperalgesia.

-**Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, type 2 (formerly Causalgia):** a syndrome of sustained burning pain, allodynia, and hyperpathia following a traumatic nerve lesion, often combined with vasomotor dysfunction and later trophic changes.

-**Dysesthesia:** an unpleasant abnormal sensation, whether spontaneous or evoked.

-**Hyperalgesia:** an increased response to a stimulus that is normally painful.

-**Hyperpathia:** a painful syndrome characterized by an abnormally painful reaction to a stimulus, especially a repetitive stimulus, as well as an increased threshold.

-Malingering: a conscious and willful feigning or exaggeration of disease or effect of an injury in order to obtain a specific external gain. It is usually motivated by external incentives such as financial compensation, avoiding work, or obtaining drugs.

-Neuralgia: pain in the distribution of a nerve or nerves.

-Neurogenic pain: pain initiated or caused by a primary lesion, dysfunction, or transitory perturbation in the peripheral or central nervous system.

-Neuropathic pain: pain arising as a direct consequence of a lesion or disease affecting the somatosensory system.

-Neuropathy: a distribution of function or pathological change in a nerve: *in one nerve, mononeuropathy. In several nerves, mononeuropathy multiplex. If diffuse and bilateral, polyneuropathy.*

-Plasticity (neural): nociceptive input leading to structural and functional changes that may cause altered perceptual processing and contribute to pain chronicity.

-Wind up: slow temporal summation of pain mediated by C-fibers due to repetitive noxious stimulation at a rate faster than 1 stimulus every 3 seconds. May cause the person to experience a gradual increase in the perceived magnitude of pain.

References

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2. Fishman S, Ballantyne J, Rathmell JP, Bonica JJ. *Bonica's Management of Pain*. 4th ed./ed. Baltimore, MD: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins; 2010.