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ORGANIZATION

International Association for the Study of Pain
American Academy of Pain Management
Pain Foundation
American Pain Society
Pain
American Association for Pain Medicine

DEFINITIONS

Pain- An unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage, or described in terms of such damage.

Allodynia- Pain due to a stimulus which does not normally provoke pain.

Analgesia- Absence of pain in response to stimulation which would normally be painful.

Anesthesia Dolorosa- Pain in an area or region which is anesthetic.

Causalgia- A syndrome of substained burning pain, allodynia, and hyperpathia after a traumatic nerve lesion, often combined with vasomotor and sudomotor dysfunction and later trophic.

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

Dysesthesia- An unpleasant abnormal sensation, whether spontaneous or evoked.

Hyperalgesia- An increased response to a stimulus which is normally painful.

Hyperesthesia- Increases sensitivity to stimulation, excluding the special senses.

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

Hypoalgesia- Diminished pain in response to a normally painful stimulus.

Hypoesthesia- Decreased sensitivity to stimulation, excluding the special senses.

Neuralgia- Pain in the distribution of a nerve or nerves.

Neuritis- Inflammation 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 initiated or caused by a primary lesion or dysfunction in the nervous system.

Neuropathy- A disturbance of function or pathological change in a nerve: in one nerve, mononeuropathy; in several nerves, mononeuropathy multiplex; if diffuse and bilateral, polyneuropathy.

Nociceptor- A receptor preferentially sensitive to a noxious stimulus or to a stimulus which would become noxious if prolonged.

Noxious Stimulus- A noxious stimulus is one which is damaging to normal tissues.

Pain Threshold- The least experience of pain which a subject can recognize.

Pain Tolerance Level- The greatest level of pain which a subject is prepared to tolerate.

Paresthesia- An abnormal sensation, whether spontaneous or evoked.

Peripheral Neurogenic Pain- Pain initiated or caused by a primary lesion or dysfunction or transitory perturbation in the peripheral nervous system.

Peripheral Neuropathic Pain- Pain initiated or caused by a primary lesion or dysfunction in the peripheral nervous system.