Deconstructing the Neuropsychophysiological Nature of Joint Pain (Nociception)

## **Disclosure Statements**

I have Online Courses, Posters and a Book I have created based on research

I have run a private practice for over 30 years that treats people in pain/discomfort/dysfunction

I am biased towards evidence-based and science-based practice, as well as biologically plausible explanations.

I treat structure from a Neuropsychophysiological Perspective

I live with chronic discomfort - I'm a Clinician and a Patient





L.A.S.T. Techniques for the Shoulder	L.A.S.T. Techniques for the Thorax	Techniques for the Sternum & Abdomen	L.A.S.T. Techniques for the Elbow, Wrist & Hand
L.A.S.T. Techniques for the Carpals & Tarsals	L.A.S.T. Techniques for the Hip & Pelvis	L.A.S.T. Techniques for the Knee	L.A.S.T. <b>Techniques for</b> <b>the Knee, Leg &amp; Foot</b>
LOAMENT DAN	L.A.S.T. <b>Postural Awareness</b> (A Bioplasticity Perspective)	L.A.S.T. Ligament Pain Referral Patterns	



# Ligamentpain.com











"Half of what we are going to teach you is wrong, and half of it is right. Our problem is that we don't know which half is which." Charles Sidney Burwell, Cardiologist, Dean, Harvard Medical School 1935-1949

# FULL CONTACT GARDENING































18/06/2025







18/06/2025



I hope to transform how you approach and treat your patients with injuries/conditions/concerns

Provide information to immediately apply in your Practice with your Patients

Think differently about pain and rehab management























## Different Densities with Specific Functions

Ligaments & joint capsules are now seen not as completely separate structures but they are embedded, local densifications, local specifications of a body wide collagenous, fibrous mostly tension driven interconnected system.

Robert Schleip, Ph.D







## How Ligamentous Injuries Happen

# HIGH FREQUENCY REPETITIVE MOTION OR SPORTS ACTIVITIES

result in high incidents of ligamentous damage or rupture

- Creep
- Stress/Relaxation
- Hysteresis

#### FAST STRETCH

may exceed the physiological load yet it may still be well within the physiological length range

















## How Ligamentous Injuries Happen





Normal Crimped Fibers





No Deformation Straighten fibers





Deformation Microscopic Failure



Tissue Rupture Macroscopic Failure

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Elastic recoil diminishes from the yield point to the failure point.



#### **Normal Wound-Healing Process**

Bleeding and Inflammation Phase occur within hours, can last for weeks

2 weeks to 6 weeks Hemorrhage, blood flow and vascular volume increase Nerve fibers and clot formation

Neovascularization (nerve fibers infiltration) Formation of granulation tissue (scar)



## Normal Wound-Healing Process

Cell Proliferation with Matrix Production Phase lasts weeks to months

Neovascularization (nerve fibers infiltration) Formation of granulation tissue (scar)

Fibroblasts are recruited and begin to produce matrix and form new tissues



Normal Wound-Healing Process

Matrix Remodeling Phase continues for months to years

Blood flow and vascular volume still elevated

Realignment of collagen fibers

Increased collagen matrix maturation



# Understanding And Approach To Treatment Of Scars And Adhesions Susan L. Chapelle



#### Figure 51.7

Tendon and ligament injury and healing time with potential therapeutic opportunities. Courtesy of Dr Geoffrey Bove



# Understanding And Approach To Treatment Of Scars And Adhesions Susan L. Chapelle



#### Figure 51.7

Tendon and ligament injury and healing time with potential therapeutic opportunities. Courtesy of Dr Geoffrey Bove







No Mobilization (A)

Mobilization (B)





Journal of Electromyography and Kinesiology 14 (2004) 49-60

ELECTROMYOGRAPHY

www.elsevier.com/locate/jelekin

## Ligaments: a source of work-related musculoskeletal disorders

M. Solomonow\*

Occupational Medicine Research Center, Bioengineering Laboratory, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA 70112, USA

# TIMELINES FOR ACUTE-CHRONIC Acute inflammation sets in within 2 hours, may last several weeks and up to 12 months represents the healing or upgrading of the ligament's properties undergoing changes in cellular, metabolic and vascular condition to improve the mechanical properties

#### **TIMELINES FOR ACUTE-CHRONIC**

Chronic inflammation builds up silently over many weeks, months or years

when the tissue is not allowed to rest, recover and heal

atrophy and degeneration of the collagen matrix permanently damaged permanent disability associated with pain, limited motion, weakness

Full recovery was never reported

## RECOVERY

loading or stretching a ligament over relatively short periods induces changes in its length–tension behavior that may last **20 – 40 times longer** than the duration of the loading/stretching

10 – **60 min** of creep and tension–relaxation 40 – 60% recovery in the first hour of rest 24 – 48H REQUIRED FOR RECOVERY



HOW THEY HEAL

Ligaments are adaptive

Respond to increased physical activity and inactivity

#### **HOW THEY HEAL**

#### Moderate exercise followed with sufficient rest and recovery

increase in the strength of a ligament, as well as in its size and collagen content

allows the tissue to hypertrophy, increase its strength and protect joint stability

Increase the total number of collagen fibrils in the ligament, as well as in the fibril diameter









# Do the Dermatome/Myotome Dance




### Arthrotome:



Joint Capsule-Ligamentous Tissues That Are Mainly Supplied By Afferent Nerve Fibres From The Dorsal Root(s) Of Any Given Spinal Nerve(s) Robert Libbey, RMT, Omar Aboshady, MD Contact: robert@robertlibbeyrmt.com



### A Review of the Ligamentomuscular Reflexes: Implications for Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation

Robert Libbey, RMT, Omar Aboshady, MD Contact: robert@robertlibbeyrmt.com





Robert Libbey, RMT, Omar Aboshady, MD Contact: robert@robertlibbeyrmt.com

			The four types of mechanoreceptors, their location and the effects manual treatment has on them		
			Receptor:	Ruffini - Type I	
	Type I receptors	<b>e-</b>	Location:	<ul> <li>superficial layer of joint capsules</li> <li>dura mater</li> <li>peripheral joints' ligaments</li> <li>muscle fasciae</li> <li>the deep dorsal fascia of the hand</li> </ul>	
	Type II receptors	10000000	Responds to:	constant, slow and deep pressure slow shear forces	
			Results in:	a lowering of sympathetic nervous system activity	
		Receptor:	Pacini – Type II		
	Type III receptors	37-	Location:	<ul> <li>deep layers of joint capsules</li> <li>deeper spinal ligaments</li> <li>investing muscular fasciae (antebrachial, crural)</li> <li>abdominal fasciae, masseter, lateral thigh, plantar and palmar tissues, &amp; peritoneum</li> </ul>	
			Responds to:	<ul> <li>rapid changes in pressure</li> <li>vibratory/oscillatory techniques</li> <li>HVLA's</li> </ul>	
References: www.lastsite.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/LigamentomuscularReferences.pdf			Results in:	an increase local proprioceptive attention and self-regulation	





#### A Review of the Ligamentomuscular Reflexes: Implications for Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation

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# A Review of the Ligamentomuscular Reflexes: Implications for Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation

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### A Review of the Ligamentomuscular Reflexes: Implications for Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation

Robert Libbey, RMT, Omar Aboshady, MD Contact: robert@robertlibbeyrmt.com





w.lastsite.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Ligamento



# A Review of the Ligamentomuscular Reflexes: Implications for Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation

Robert Libbey, RMT, Omar Aboshady, MD Contact: robert@robertlibbeyrmt.com

#### Table 1: Ligamentomuscular Reflexes Knee

Ligaments/ Capsule	Muscles Connections	Nerves	Action	Latency time	Short reference
Anterior Cruciate Ligament	Hamstring muscles (semitendinosus muscle and rectus femoris muscle)	L4-S3 Tibial nerve Free nerve endings Ruffini corpuscles Pacini corpuscles	When knee flexors were relaxed -> contraction in the semitendinosus muscle When knee flexors were contracted -> total inhibition in the contracting muscles (semitendinosusmuscle and rectus femoris muscle)	For contraction -> 95 ± 35 msec For inhibition -> 65 ± 20 msec in the semitendinosus muscle and 70 ± 15 msec in the rectus femoris muscle.	Dyhre-Poulsen (2000)
Posterior Cruciate Ligament	Vastus mediails, rectus femoris, vastus laterails, biceps femoris caput longum, and semitendinosus muscles	L4-S3 Tibial nerve L2-L4 Obturator nerve Free nerve endings Ruffini corpuscles Pacini corpuscles	Inhibited the ongoing muscle activity in both the quadriceps and hamstrings	78 to 148 msec in the quadriceps 88 to 110 msec in the hamstrings 189 to 258 msec in m. gastrocnemius	Fischer-Rasmussen (2002)
Medial Collateral Ligaments Lateral Collateral Ligaments	Semitendinosus, biceps femoris iong head, vastus medialis, and lateralis, sartorius, gracilis, tensor fascia lata	L2-L3 Medial articular nerve branch of the saphenous nerve L4-S3 Common fibular nerve of Tibial nerve Ruffini endings Pacifian corpuscles Golgi receptors Free nerve endings	Activation in the vastus medialis following MCL stimulation and in the vastus lateralis following LCL stimulation	128 to 144 msec.	Kim (1995)



is/2022/08/Ligar



#### A Review of the Ligamentomuscular Reflexes: Implications for Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation

Robert Libbey, RMT, Omar Aboshady, MD Contact: robert@robertlibbeyrmt.com

Automatic, dynamic involuntary responses work in harmony with conscious muscle control to maintain balance, stability, and coordination, enabling seamless adaptation to uneven terrain. While voluntary control allows for precise and intentional movements, the ligamentomuscular reflex provides rapid, automatic stabilization to minimize mechanical stress or strain being applied to the joint.

Together, these mechanisms are essential for maintaining joint stability, preventing injuries, and supporting both everyday movements and more demanding physical activity (Hauser, 2013; Johansson et al., 1991; Solomonow, 2009; Van der Wal, 2009).

For example, running cross-country or walking in high heels on a cobblestone surface requires an instinctive and seamless blending of conscious balance and automatic reflexive stabilization to navigate and adjust to uneven terrain.







### A Review of the Ligamentous Articular Tissue Pain Referral Patterns:

Implications for Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation

Robert Libbey, RMT, Omar Aboshady, MD Contact: robert@robertlibbeyrmt.com

Introduction Introduction ignormotus articular tissues continue to be an under-reco isource of dysfunction and noclooption. Trauma and patholo terrupt afferent impulses from capsule-ligamentous struct esuiting in altered somatosensory perceptions, movement systamicion, discontrol, and/or pask. Noxivedge of capsul yaking among fucal traup pinn referral patterns are relativ undersjonant and orthopedic creativity.

Objectives The purpose of this study was to consolidate the research documenting capsule-ligamentous articular pain referral patterns of the axial and peripheral joint tissues into a central database.

Methodology A cluster service conducted through two periods. Non 1996 A cluster service throm, July 23, 2022 to Augun 23, 2022 PhoMedi Medine, Enbase, and Google Scholer databases and anatomical and regional materials lateblock were scienced to entract all data confirming human joint capaule-ligamethol structure pain (entern) patients, All theor/obstacks listerified through used theory internal patients, All theor/obstacks listerified through used theory and the sectors. referral patterns, au these abstracts identified through searches were screened for potential inclusion based on the eligibility criteria. Selected studies at this stage were further included for a full-text review. After the final inclusion decision, ignorem/capsule, local pain area, and the referral pain area were extracted in an excel sheet.

#### Results

study consolidates information detailing pain referral the capsule, ligament, and articular tissues of the axia and light in humans; into a central database.

Conclusion inplies to capace-legamentous tissues, which are neurological inversited, car cape hyper-excited perphanial affecter in environ mucculobalishetiti pain syndromes. Dur result segonds the clini-bentifs for medical professionals to induce capace, igname articular tissues in their diagnostic protocols, Kowkedge of th dials by medical professionals may have significant implication in designing diagnostic protocols, treatment, and rehabilitativi stategies for plantets prost-signilar and porkinging.





# A Review of the Ligamentous Articular Tissue Pain Referral Patterns: Implications for Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation

Robert Libbey, RMT, Omar Aboshady, MD Contact: robert@robertlibbeyrmt.com



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A Review of the Ligamentous Articular Tissue Pain Referral Patterns: Implications for Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation Robert Libbey, RMT, Omar Aboshady, MD Contact: robert@robertlibbeyrmt.com









Neurophysiological Mechanism

Neurophysiological Schematic Model of Dichotomizing Axons

**Convergence-Projection Pattern** 







# Thoughts & Beliefs & Expectations



#### **CRITICAL REVIEWS IN ORAL BIOLOGY & MEDICINE**

S. Guo and L.A. DiPietro\*

J Dent Res 89(3):219-229, 2010

Center for Wound Healing and Tissue Regeneration, Department of Periodontics, College of Dentistry (MC 859), University of Illinois at Chicago, 801 S. Paulina Ave., Chicago, IL 60612, USA; \*cerresponding author, ldipiet@uie.edu Factors Affecting Wound Healing



Figure 1: The effects of stress on wound healing. Stress-impaired wound healing is mediated primarily through the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal, sympathetic-adrenal medullary axes, and psychological- response-induced unhealthy behaviors.





# **Brain mechanisms of Chronic Pain**

A. Vania Apkarian, PhD

San Diego Pain Summit

February , 2018 San Diego

		visit 1 time 0	visit 2 7 weeks	visit 3 30 weeks	visit 4 55 weeks
Baseline	Acute	Sub-act	ute		Chronic
	SBPr				
	SBPp				
					mPFC [-36 44 18]
93					







### **Neuroplastic Changes**

Explains the transition from acute to chronic conditions

Nociceptive to **Nociplastic** Pain

Explains why some patients continue to experience pain when no structural cause can be determined

Explains why some patients fail to respond to conservative interventions.















## Perspective

Addressing Neuroplastic Changes in Distributed Areas of the Nervous System Associated With Chronic Musculoskeletal Disorders

René Pelletier, Johanne Higgins, Daniel Bourbonnais Present interventions utilized in musculoakcletal rehabilitation are guided, trut y a homedical model where peripheral attractural injury is helievred to sole driver of the disorder. There are, howevere, neurophysiological change trut of the disorder. There are, howevere, neurophysiological change trut of the disorder. There are, howevere, neurophysiological change trut of the disorder. There are, howevere, neurostimotor orientical trut of the disorder. There are, howevere, neurostimotor orientical trut of the disorder. There are an ensembles of the disorder there are trut of the disorder. There are an ensembles of the disorder there are an ensembles of the disorder. There are trut of the disorder there are a for the disorder there are an ensembles of the disorder there are trut of the disorder. There are an ensembles of the disorder there are a for the disorder there are an ensembles of the disorder. There are a for the disorder there are a for the disorder there are a for the disorder the disorder there are a for the disorder there are a for the disorder the disorder there are a for the disorder the disorder there are a for the disorder there are a for the disorder there are a for the disorder the disorder there are a for the disorder there are a for the disorder the disorder there are a for the disorder there are a for the disorder the disorder there are a for the disorder there are a for the disorder the dis

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Iton, Faculté de Médecine, Université de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
 J. Higgins, PhD, École de Réadaptation, Faculté de Médecine, Uni-

cursale Centre-ville, Montreal, Québec, Canada H3C 3/7, and Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Rehabilitation of Greater Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Address all correspondence to Dr Higgins at johanne.higgins@urmontreal.ca. D. Burthromatic RhD Frole de

Réadaptation, Faculté de Médecine, Université de Montréal, and Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Rehabilitation of Greater Montreal. [Pelletier R, Higgins J, Bourbonnais D. Addressing neuroplastic

changes in distributed areas of the nervous system associated with chronic musculoskeletal disorders. *Phys Ther*. 2015;95:1582–1591.] © 2015 American Physical Therapy Association

Published Ahead of Print: May 7, 2015 Accepted: May 1, 2015 Submitted: December 23, 2014 sketal dioxiden. Neurophysiological changes: ne consistent with a hiopsychol formalistic net/etcuing the underlying mechanisms associated with sensory and indings, psychological traits, and perceptual changes associated with chronic divident control of the sensor of the sensor of the sensor of the divident sensor of the sensor of the sensor of the sensor of the divident sensor of the sensor of the sensor of the sensor divident sensor of the sensor of the sensor of the sensor mapping of the sensor of the sensor of the sensor of the sensor mapping of the sensor of the sensor of the sensor of the sensor mapping of the nervous system and affect outcomes in patients with chronic must sheed allowed as truthermote, neuroid approaches used as the use of transac direct current stimulation and repetitive transcrinal magnetic stimulation m utilized to help renormalize neuroidogial function. Comprehensive trans ing across distributed areas of the nervous system may help to improve ourcom patients with chronic musculoskeletal disorders.

November 2015

# Top-down



Post a Rapid Response to this article at: ptjournal.opta.org

1582 III Physical Therapy Volume 95 Number 11 meanaded free herap://webenie.eug.eu/psj/article-abeteur/95/11/1592/288299 milit Therapy 2018



Clinicians who utilize:

**bottom-up influences** (manual therapy, motor learning, peripheral sensory stimulation)

**top-down influences** (education, cognitive-behavioral therapy, mindfulness meditation, motor imagery)

can stimulate CNS neuroplastic changes



ocebo (Latin nocēbō, "I shall harm", from noceō, "I harm")





























## Understanding And Approach To Treatment Of Scars And Adhesions Susan L. Chapelle



Figure 51.7 Tendon and ligament injury and healing time with potential therapeutic opportunities. Courtesy of Dr Geoffrey Bove











# PRACTICE Massage Therapy: A Person-Centred Approach to Chronic Pain

Richard Lebert, RMT<sup>1\*</sup>, Monica Noy, MSc, RMT<sup>2</sup>, Eric Purves, MSc, RMT<sup>3</sup>, Jacqueline Tibbett, PhD, LMT<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The School of Health Science, Community Services and Creative Design, Lambton College, Sarnia, ON, Canada, <sup>2</sup>Private Practice, Toronto, ON, Canada, <sup>3</sup>Private Practice, Victoria, BC, Canada, <sup>4</sup>Private Practice, Miami, FL, USA

https://doi.org10.3822/ijtmb.v15i3.713





### How Pro Athletes Heal Tendon Injuries 25% Faster



Dr. Keith Baar is a Professor at the University of California Department of Physiology and Membrane Biology.

































## **Humans Are Robust**

#### Nasal Bone

takes approximately 450-850 Newton 0-90 kg) of force for a 50% risk of acturing your nasal bone (one of the eakest bones in the body) (1)

## Elbow

verage strain to failu led to a load equival ith the maximum ten d at failure being ~415 N (45kg) (2)

early 340 N 35 kg) (3)

## Knee ultimate tensile lo

re for younger cadaveric models ted to 2160 N (220 kg) and was 1

n: In cadav ers the ulti ength had a mean value of 60 equates to ~2010 N (205 kg) for patellar tendon (5)

#### Ankle/Foot

Achilles Tendon: The AT can withstand over 3700 N (380 kg) of force during hopping before rupturing (6)

ia: It takes 8350 N (852 kg) of orce and 4150 N (424 kg) of t n the PF by 1% (7)

DYNAMIC PRINCIPLES

#### Shoulder

Labrum: The mean elasticity modulus before failure is 22.8 MPa. For the average glenoid labrum this is equivalent to ~760 N (77 kg) (8)

Thoracolumbar Spine s approximately 3400 - 3700 N (350 380 kg) of peak forces for a 50% risk of brae (g)

cia Lata: It takes 9075 N (925 kg) of ve force and 4515 N (460 kg) of force to deform the the TFL by

ur Bone: The average breaking force of ur bone is -3050 N (311 kg) with stronger es needing upwards of -5700 N (580 kg)

Labrum: The mean elasticity modulus before failure is 24.7 MPa. For the average acetabul labrum, this is equivalent to ~1020 N (104 kg)

#### References




8hrs of tissue challenge = 16 days Required For Recovery

	n=5****
ulmonary disease	n=4 <sup>78 112-114</sup>
	n=4 <sup>81 115-117</sup>
l or post-partum	n=4 <sup>38-41</sup>
hronic diseases	n=3 <sup>118-120</sup>
dults	n=3 <sup>42-44</sup>
	n=3 <sup>84 85 121</sup>
se	n=3 <sup>80 122 123</sup>
pression	n=4 <sup>63 65 74 124</sup>
	n=3 <sup>86 125 126</sup>
	n=3 <sup>21 127 128</sup>
tic diseases	n=2 <sup>82 129 130</sup>
t	n=2 <sup>77 131</sup>
	n=2 <sup>76 132</sup>
disorder	n=2 <sup>133 134</sup>
h disorders	n=2 <sup>83 135</sup>
	n=1 <sup>136</sup>
	- 129

n=1<sup>137</sup>

n=1138

n=1<sup>79</sup>

n=3713 21 38 4

n=7<sup>39 45 46 62 127 135 138</sup>

n=6<sup>65 113 118 128 131 136</sup>

n=643 71 82 83 85 122

n=3<sup>104 114 120</sup>

n=364111119

n=2<sup>44 48</sup>

Number of reviews

N=33<sup>33-37 40 42 49 51 56 57 60 61 63 72 76-80 98 99 104 107 115-117 124 129 130 134 137</sup>

Table 1 Overview of all populations, conditions and physical activity

n=274

n=5<sup>10</sup>

Number of reviews

n=11 63 64 66-73 75

modes of the included reviews

Population or condition

Adults with depression

Adults with various of

Apparently healthy a

Cardiovascular disea

Older adults with dep

Arthritis and rheuma

Cognitive impairment

Post-traumatic stress

Various mental healt Fatigue

Knee osteoarthritis

Schizophrenia

Qigong)

Qigong)

Aerobic exercise

Resistance exercise

Yoga

Tai Chi

Qigong

Dance

Neurological disorders

Substance use disorder

Physical activity modality

Mixed-mode exercise, not including

mind-body exercise (eg, Yoga, Tai Chi or

Mixed-mode exercise, including mindbody exercises (eg, Yoga, Tai Chi or

Anxiety disorders

Renal disease Stroke

HIV/AIDS

Cancer

Dementia

Older adults Chronic obstructive p Multiple sclerosis Pregnant or postnata women

(	6	
OPEN	ACCESS	

Review Effectiveness of physical activity interventions for improving depression, anxiety and distress: an overview of systematic reviews

Ben Singh ●,<sup>1</sup> Timothy Olds,<sup>1</sup> Rachel Curtis,<sup>1</sup> Dorothea Dumuid ●,<sup>1</sup> Rosa Virgara, Amanda Watson,<sup>1</sup> Kimberley Szeto,<sup>1</sup> Edward O'Connor,<sup>1</sup> Ty Ferguson,<sup>1</sup> Emily Eglitis,<sup>1</sup> Aaron Miatke,<sup>1</sup> Catherine EM Simpson,<sup>1</sup> Carol Maher<sup>2</sup>

#### What is already known

- ⇒ Previous research trials suggest that physical activity may have similar effects to psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy for patients with depression, anxiety or psychological distress. ⇒ Studies have evaluated different forms of physical activity, in
- varying dosages, in different population subgroups, and using different comparator groups, making it difficult for clinicians to understand the body of evidence for physical activity in the management of mental health disorders

#### What are the new findings

- $\Rightarrow$  Results showed that physical activity is effective for reducing mild-to-moderate symptoms of depression, anxiety and psychological distress (median effect size range=-0.42 to -0.60), compared with usual care across all populations.
- $\Rightarrow$  Our findings underscore the important role of physical activity in the management of mild-to-moderate symptoms of depression, anxiety and psychological distress.

Conclusion and relevance Physical activity is highly beneficial for improving symptoms of depression, anxiety and distress across a wide range of adult populations, including the general population, people with diagnosed mental health disorders and people with chronic disease. Physical activity should be a mainstay approach in the management of depression, anxiety and psychological distress.

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Emotion

http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/emo0000656

## Hurts So Good: Pain as an Emotion Regulation Strategy

Doukas AM<sup>1</sup>, D'Andrea WM<sup>1</sup>, Gregory WE<sup>1</sup>, Joachim B<sup>1</sup>, Lee KA<sup>1</sup>, Robinson G<sup>1</sup>, Freed SJ<sup>1</sup>, Khedari-DePierro V<sup>1</sup>, Pfeffer KA<sup>1</sup>, Todman M<sup>1</sup>, Siegle GJ<sup>2</sup>.

#### Author information

- Department of Clinical Psychology. 1
- 2 Department of Psychiatry.

### Abstract

In the field of emotion regulation studies, cognitive reappraisal has been established as the preferred strategy for coping with painful negative feelings. For some, however, asking them to think more about an already distressing situation can be quite literally "like pulling teeth." Indeed, many people voluntarily cause themselves physical pain during upsetting situations (e.g., getting a deep tissue massage after a stressful week or hitting a punching bag when angry); however, there is currently little empirical evidence of the relative effectiveness of such behaviors. The present study tested two primary hypotheses: (a) some people will choose to inflict pain to regulate negative emotional states; and (b) pain provides effective short-term relief from negative emotion. The findings from these two studies demonstrate that, given the opportunity, participants will choose to use physical pain in addition to other strategies, like reappraisal or distraction, to cope with various sources of negative emotion. We further show that physical sensation in general, and pain in particular, are equally effective in coping with negative emotion. These results suggest a reconsideration of the dominance of cognitively based emotion regulation. We discuss the implication that benign physical pain may be a broadly effective and underrecognized coping strategy. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2019 APA, all rights reserved).

> PLoS One. 2023 May 24;18(5):e0285041. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0285041. eCollection 2023.

Longitudinal relationships between habitual physical activity and pain tolerance in the general population

Anders Pedersen Årnes <sup>1</sup>, Christopher Sievert Nielsen <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup>, Audun Stubhaug <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup>, Mats Kirkeby Fjeld <sup>2</sup>, Aslak Johansen <sup>1</sup>, Bente Morseth <sup>5</sup>, Bjørn Heine Strand <sup>2</sup> <sup>6</sup>, Tom Wilsgaard <sup>7</sup>, Ólöf Anna Steingrímsdóttir <sup>2</sup>

## Abstract

Physical activity (PA) might influence the risk or progression of chronic pain through pain tolerance. Hence, we aimed to assess whether habitual leisure-time PA level and PA change affects pain tolerance longitudinally in the population. Our sample (n = 10,732; 51% women) was gathered from the sixth (Tromsø6, 2007-08) and seventh (Tromsø7, 2015-16) waves of the prospective population-based Tromsø Study, Norway. Level of leisure-time PA (sedentary, light, moderate, or vigorous) was derived from questionnaires; experimental pain tolerance was measured by the cold-pressor test (CPT). We used ordinary, and multipleadjusted mixed, Tobit regression to assess 1) the effect of longitudinal PA change on CPT tolerance at follow-up, and 2) whether a change in pain tolerance over time varied with level of LTPA. We found that participants with high consistent PA levels over the two surveys (Tromsø6 and Tromsø7) had significantly higher tolerance than those staying sedentary (20.4 s. (95% CI: 13.7, 27.1)). Repeated measurements show that light (6.7 s. (CI 3.4, 10.0)), moderate (CI 14.1 s. (9.9, 18.3)), and vigorous (16.3 s. (CI 6.0, 26.5)) PA groups had higher pain tolerance than sedentary, with non-significant interaction showed slightly falling effects of PA over time. In conclusion, being physically active at either of two time points measured 7-8 years apart was associated with higher pain tolerance compared to being sedentary at both time-points. Pain tolerance increased with higher total activity levels, and more for those who increased their activity level during follow-up. This indicates that not only total PA amount matters but also the direction of change. PA did not significantly moderate pain tolerance change over time, though estimates suggested a slightly falling effect possibly due to ageing. These results support increased PA levels as a possible non-pharmacological pathway towards reducing or preventing chronic pain.



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## Injuries are both Connective Tissue and

## Neuropsychophysiological

dysfunctions causing reorganization of the central nervous system affecting neural plasticity.

- Robert Libbey, RMT











18/06/2025









# Questions

- What's wrong with me?
- How long will it take to heal?
- What can I (Patient) do about it?
- What you (Clinician) can do to help?
- How much will it cost?



Deconstructing the Neuropsychophysiological Nature of Joint Pain (Nociception)

Deconstructing the Neuropsychophysiological Nature of Joint Pain (Nociception)

# YOU'VE GOTTA STOP PRETENDING EVERYTHING IS AWESOME

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