

Evaluating chronic pain patients using methods from Johns Hopkins Hospital physicians

Chronic pain patients are misdiagnosed 40%-80% of the time, according to research from Johns Hopkins Hospital physicians. The most common of these misdiagnoses is sprains or strains, which are listed in medical textbooks as self-limited disorders, which resolve in less than three weeks without treatment. Yet these diagnoses account for over 50% of diagnoses in patients with pain for more than three months. On the other hand, certain diagnoses are overused, and misapplied without attention to published diagnostic criteria. Therefore, complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) formerly called reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD), and fibromyalgia, are over diagnosed 71% to 97% of the time, to the detriment of the patients. The leading causes of these errors in

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