

RECOGNITION AT THE HEART OF THE COMPLEX SITUATIONS EXPERIENCED BY PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC NEUROMUSCULOSKELETAL PAIN

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Main Category: B (basic research)

Main Topic: Pain in general

Background and aims: This patient-centered study aimed to determine the place and the impact that chronic neuromusculoskeletal pain (CNMSP) has in the lives of those affected..

Methods: A qualitative method was used by conducting 24 semi-structured interviews with people with PMSC in complex situations. The study was carried out in Belgium with French-speaking individuals. The interviews took place at the university, in a university hospital, in private clinics or in the persons' homes.

Results: People with CNMSP revealed the importance of the lack of recognition experienced in the intimate, social and legal spheres. The invisibility of pain and its a priori benign character, as well as the sacredness of medical images and the stigmatization of chronic pain, lead to questioning of the veracity of the person's experience by their entourage and health professionals. Pain causes a loss of physical, emotional and relational capacities, leading to isolation and psychological distress. A struggle to be legally recognized can occur, ranging from a denial of responsibility by employers to the brutality of certain "expert" doctors. Access to financial aid to support work incapacity or to gain access to some forms of care is thus jeopardized.

Conclusions: This study highlights that the lack of recognition is at the heart of the complex situations experienced by people with CNMSP. Given the fact that the invisibility of pain is an inherent characteristic of this medical condition, the lever to alleviate the negative consequences of non-recognition would be to evolve the vision of different actors involved as well as collaborative practices.

Do you have any conflict of interest to declare (industry support) for the past 3 years related to this work? No

Has this study been approved by an ethics committee?: Yes

In case of patient case presentations: Do you have approval from the patient/patients? Yes

I am interested in participating in a poster walk: Yes

My abstract has an industry perspective: No

I wish to be eligible for a poster prize: No

If selected, I would like to give an oral presentation in addition to the poster presentation: No