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Complex Regional Pain Syndrome

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

Source

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). [Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Information Page](#).

Complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) is a condition marked by severe, prolonged chronic pain (lasting more than six months) that may be constant. Symptoms vary in intensity and duration. Some people describe it as a burning sensation, a "pins and needles" sensation, or as if an arm or leg is being squeezed. The pain may spread to the entire arm or leg, even though the injury may have been only to a finger or toe. Common symptoms include dramatic changes in the color and temperature of the skin over the affected limb or body part, accompanied by intense burning pain, increased sensitivity in the affected area, skin sensitivity, abnormal sweating, and abnormal movement in the affected limb. In most instances the condition is triggered by a clear history of trauma or injury. CRPS also affects the immune system -- the disorder is more common in individuals with other inflammatory and autoimmune conditions such as asthma. Limited data also suggests that CRPS may also be influenced by genetics.