

IDENTIFYING AND DOCUMENTING PRE-EXISTING PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS



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1. PRE-EXISTING PAIN AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING

- A. Is your depression really from your back pain?
 - Turning the Tables – using psychological tests to predict back pain before it happens
 - Discogenic pain and depression
 - Extreme thought responses
 - MMPI 2 – Is it really valid for pain issues?
 - PVT (Mensano Clinic) developed to measure true validity of pain
 - PVT and prediction of actual abnormal laboratory tests

1. PRE-EXISTING PAIN AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING

- B. Psychological factors that lead to back pain
 - Back pain and job dissatisfaction
 - Modest correlation with perceived inadequacy of income
 - On the job social support
 - Decision latitude

1. PRE-EXISTING PAIN AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING

- C. Level of pain does not predict psychological distress
 - Soldiers and back pain
 - What percentage of disc related back pain sufferers had normal psychological profiles
 - Discogenic pain v. Osteomyelitis – surprising findings

2. DEPRESSION, ANXIETY AND OTHER EMOTIONAL SYMPTOMS

- A. Is depression, anxiety and other emotional symptoms really from the injury?
 - How do we use psychological tests to distinguish different emotional and psychological conditions?
 - What are the most powerful TESTS?
 - Telling depression from STRESS and TRAUMA.

2. DEPRESSION, ANXIETY AND OTHER EMOTIONAL SYMPTOMS

- STABLE PERSONALITY VARIABLES
 - Negative Self Attitude
 - Fantasy Life
 - Emotional Expression
 - Coping Style

2. DEPRESSION, ANXIETY AND OTHER EMOTIONAL SYMPTOMS

○ CHANGING PERSONALITY VARIABLES

- Dysphoria
- Coping Overload
- Defensive Avoidance
- Internalized Situations Stress

3. NEUROPSYCHOLOGY AND IDENTIFYING PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

○ A. Alzheimer's

- Predominantly cortical
- New verbal learning impairments
- Preserved visual spatial and procedural learning
- Preserved inhibition and immediate memory/attention
- Preserved Verbal Fluency with loosening language precision

3. NEUROPSYCHOLOGY AND IDENTIFYING PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

○ B. Stroke and Cerebral Trauma

- Predominantly sub-cortical
- Poor recall-strong recognition
- Strong memory functional
- Visual spatial abnormalities
- Impaired executive function

MEDICAL LEGAL INFORMATION

- Labor Code 4663 Apportionment Law and the Escobedo case
- How and When is Evaluation of Pre-Existing Psychological Pathology Substantial Medical Evidence

MEDICAL LEGAL INFORMATION

- The Limits of Almaraz Guzman II: Doctors Discretion to Assign Ratings Beyond the AMA Guides
- 1. Provide a strict rating per the AMA Guides
- 2. Explain why the strict rating does not accurately reflect the applicant's disability.
- 3. Provide an alternative rating using the four corners of the AMA Guides.
- 4. Explain why that alternative rating most accurately reflects applicant's level of disability.

MEDICAL LEGAL INFORMATION

- How Can Psychological Evaluation Meet Medical Probability Standards?
