

## **The Evaluation of Pain Complicating Disabling Conditions**

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Examples of the most debilitating diseases with pain complicating disability are the neuromusculoskeletal conditions, such as Rheumatoid Arthritis, Ankylosing Spondylitis, etc. Pain as 'the fifth vital sign' has resulted in mandated routine assessment and treatment of pain in hospital settings in all populations across the life cycle. Pain may have several etiologies that warrant a thorough examination in order to give proper management. Nociceptive, Neuropathic or combined pain whether acute or chronic should be well understood, as well as their pain pathways.

A comprehensive examination should start with the history of the pain, followed by a detailed physical examination that consists of observation, palpation, movement, including special tests. These will provide at least 90% of the diagnosis and additional information from the supportive examination will conclude the diagnosis. Functions should be of importance in order to preserve or possibly to improve it for a better quality of life. Presentation will include the comprehensive examination of pain from the physical medicine and rehabilitation standpoint.