

How common is Pain Associated with Neurological Conditions?

Abstract:

Neurological conditions are associated with pain, anxiety and depression which are known to diminish the quality of life. Guidelines for the treatment of specific neurological conditions often give little consideration to pain. This may be because pain is not as visible as functional impairment and treatment tends to focus on curing or slowing disease progression and improving functional outcome. In 2013, Calvert et al. conducted a survey of 266 people with various neurological conditions including motor neurone disease, Huntington's disease, cerebellar ataxia and multiple system atrophy, and found that health-related quality of life and access to health and social care was substantially reduced when compared with the general population. The aim of this Editorial is to appraise epidemiological research on the point prevalence of pain associated with neurological conditions to determine the extent of the challenge.