

The Ransford Pain Drawing

Purpose

This is a useful tool to enable the patient to give the evaluator an idea of where they feel certain symptoms. This may be done in an informal way during the initial intake interview and the drawing will prompt dialogue between the two parties regarding symptoms, their frequency, behavior and when they occurred in relation to others. Alternatively, this may be done in a formal way utilizing the Ransford Pain Drawing (Ransford, et al, 1976). The Ransford Pain Drawing is used to assess the pain and psychodynamics in a patient with low-back pain.

Administration

Provide the patient with a body chart comprising anterior and posterior views of the body. If the informal version is used, ask the client to indicate on the chart where they feel symptoms using a key to describe different symptoms. The evaluator may ask the client to elaborate on each symptom during the process or at the end. The client may make notes on the chart to further describe symptoms.

The Ransford Pain Drawing must be done on a specific body chart with four symptoms described above, namely stabbing, burning, pins and needles, and numbness. The instructions are at the top of the chart and read as follows: “Indicate where your pain is located and what type of pain you feel at the present time. Use the symbols below to describe your pain. Do not indicate areas of pain which are not related to your present condition.”

Ransford showed that the drawings drawn by patients in the study correlated very well with the Hypochondria's and Hysteria scores on an MMPI (Minnesota Multitphasic Personality Inventory) taken at the same time.

Scoring

The evaluator should observe the drawing and determine if any of the criteria listed below feature in the drawing. The appropriate score is given and all scores are totaled at the end to reach a final score.

1. Unreal drawing (Poor anatomic localization, scores 2 unless indicated; bilateral pain not weighted unless indicated).
 - A. Total leg pain
 - B. Lateral whole leg pain (trochanteric area and lateral thigh allowed)
 - C. Circumferential thigh pain
 - D. Bilateral anterior tibial area pain (unilateral allowed)
 - E. Circumferential foot pain (scores 1)
 - F. Bilateral foot pain (scores 1)
 - G. Use of all four modalities suggested in instructions (We feel patient is unlikely to have “burning areas”, stabbing pain, pins-and-needles and numbness all together; scores 1)

2. Drawing showing expansion or magnification of pain. (May also represent unrelated symptomology. Bilateral pain not weighted.)
 - A. Back pain radiating to iliac crest, groin or anterior perineum (each scores 1; coccygeal pain allowed)
 - B. Anterior knee pain (scores 1)
 - C. Anterior ankle pain (scores 1)
 - D. Pain drawing outside the outline; this is a particularly good indication of magnification (scores 1 or 2 depending on extent).

3. “I particularly hurt here” indicators. Some patients need to make sure the evaluator is fully aware of the extent of symptoms (each category scores 1; multiple use of each category is not weighted).
 - A. Add explanatory notes
 - B. Circle painful areas
 - C. Draw lines to demarcate painful areas
 - D. Use arrows
 - E. Go to excessive trouble and detail in demonstrating the pain areas (using the symbols suggested).

4. “Look how bad I am” indicators.
 - A. Additional painful areas in the trunk, head, neck or upper extremities drawn in. Tendency towards total body pain (scores 1 if limited to small areas, otherwise scores 2).

Interpretation

A score of 3 or above indicates poor psychodynamics.

The test is also useful as a distraction test to observe patient behavior while sitting or standing, depending what position he/she is in when doing the drawing.

This test takes approximately 5 to 8 minutes to administer and approximately 5 minutes to score.

INSTRUCTIONS

Indicate where your pain is located and what type of pain you feel at the present time. Use the symbols below to describe your pain. Do not indicate areas of pain, which are not related to your present injury or condition.

Key

/// Stabbing	XXX Burning	000 Pins and Needles	=== Numbness
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