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THE MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS OF CRPS PATIENTS TREATMENT; THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY APPROACH:

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In this poster we were investigating the CRPS (Complex Regional Pain Syndrome). Often the treatment of these patients are in general ripped in pieces and patients are treated by many separate departments. Often the focus in occupational therapy practice in the treatment of CRPS is based on somatosensory aspect, even though the baselines and roots of occupational therapy theory and practice are in holistic approach. Still often the education and the daily practice is following traditional medical dualism. The CRPS is challenging multiprofessional teams and occupational therapy practice because of the large range of symptoms related to this pain syndrome, covering somatosensory, psychosocial and neuroscience fields. Occupational therapists shall be aware of the issues what other professions has discovered by times about treatment of CRPS, but also create its own special evaluation and treatment methods. Discussions should include also the analysis of the usefulness of existing evaluation and therapy methods and their suitability to this patient group.

The unique philosophy of occupational therapy in treating CRPS has not been studied, discussed and used thoroughly in the treatment of CRPS. The purpose of this poster is to increase knowledge and to raise discussion among the occupational therapists. Main topic of this poster is the themes of psychosocial aspects of chronic pain, sexuality/intimacy, neglect type syndrome and the relationship between pain and trauma. The reflection has been done between literature, through the most commonly used practice methods and our knowledge and experiences during the therapy process of this patient group. The end result is to bring out the efficiency and capability of occupational therapy. By this work the occupational therapists are asked to proudly step out from the traditional medical dualism to use clearly and truly the holistic approach in treatment traditions. This would offer an opportunity for occupational therapy to be recognized as a distinct profession and enlighten its unique professional value in the treatment of this challenging and suffering group of patients.