# A multimodal approach for chronic musculoskeletal pain.

Assessment and treatment

Albère Köke PhD, PT



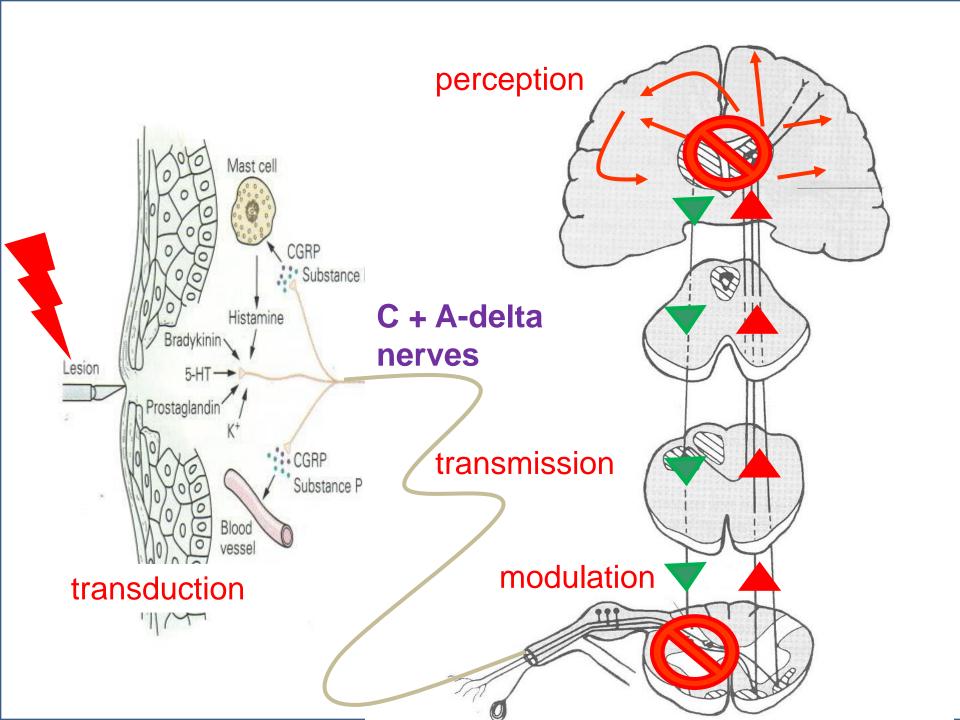


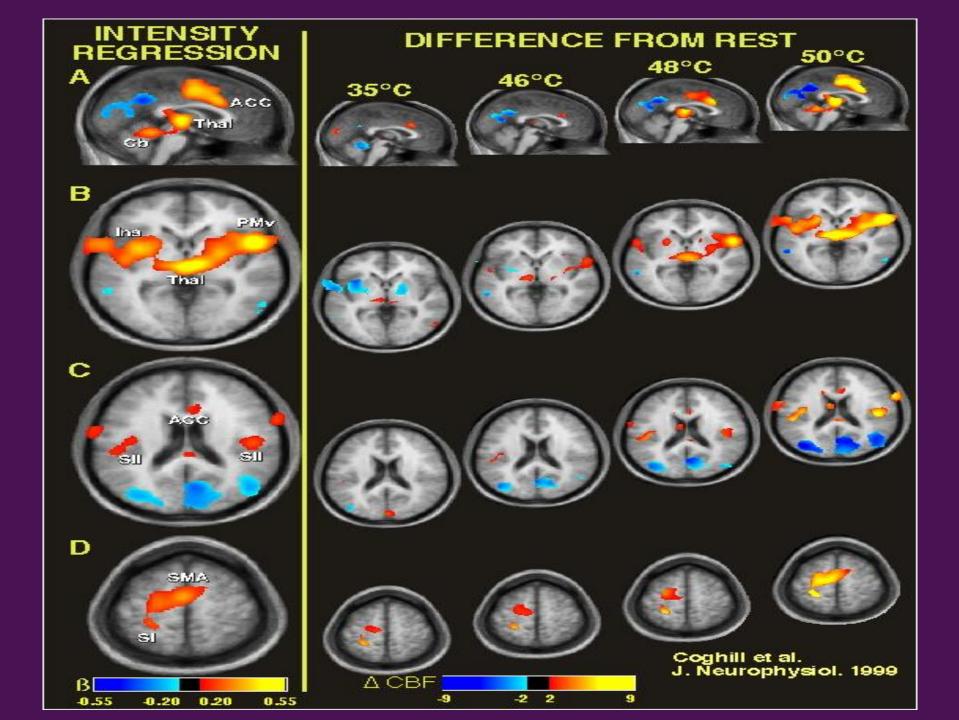




#### The biomedical model







#### Pain neuromatrix

6 brair Lokalisation, intensity, type involved when we feel Insula

pair

S1

Coding sensory input

- S2 secundary somatosensoric cortex
- Insula
- Pre Fr Emotions, fear for pain
- Anterior Cingulate Cortex
- Thalamus

volanation

S2

PFC

Explanation

#### Chronic Pain Brain

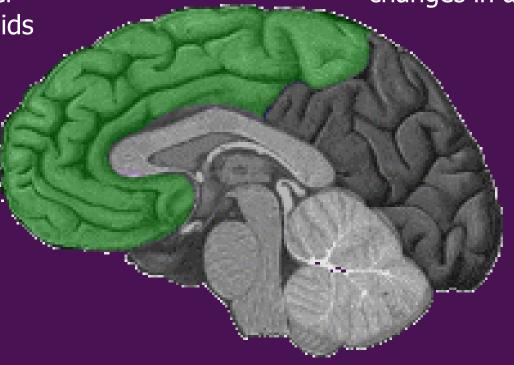
#### **Biochemical changes**

neurotransmitter endogenous opioids dopamine glutamate

etc..

**Cortical reorgnisations** 

changes in activity patterns



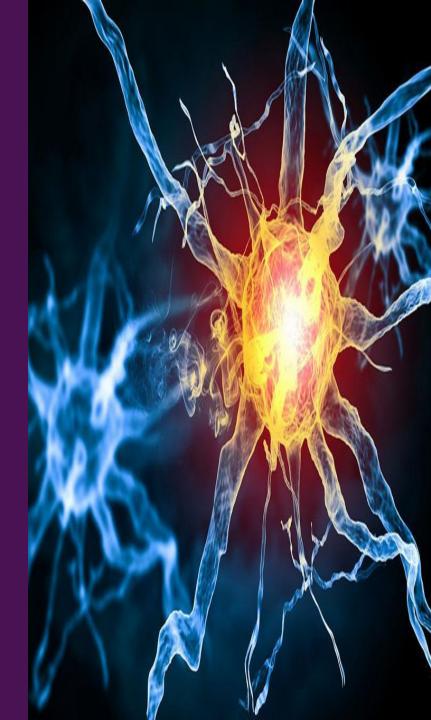
**Structural changes** gray matter decrease

## Chronic pain

Is the endresult of activity is several different areas in our brain

#### Increased brain activity by:

- (nociceptive) bodily information
- enviromental factors
- beliefs, thoughts
- emotions



## Pain as a symptom



ELSEVIER

Critical Review

How Neuroimaging Studies Have Challenged Us to Rethink: Is Chronic Pain a Disease?

Irene Tracey\* and M. Catherine Bushnell†



A multifactorial health problem

NO CURE for chronic pain!

Interdisciplinary multimodal approach

## Multimodal Treatment of Pain Based on Biopsychosocial Approach

But what is the best combination of therapies?

Complementary therapies

Biofeedback

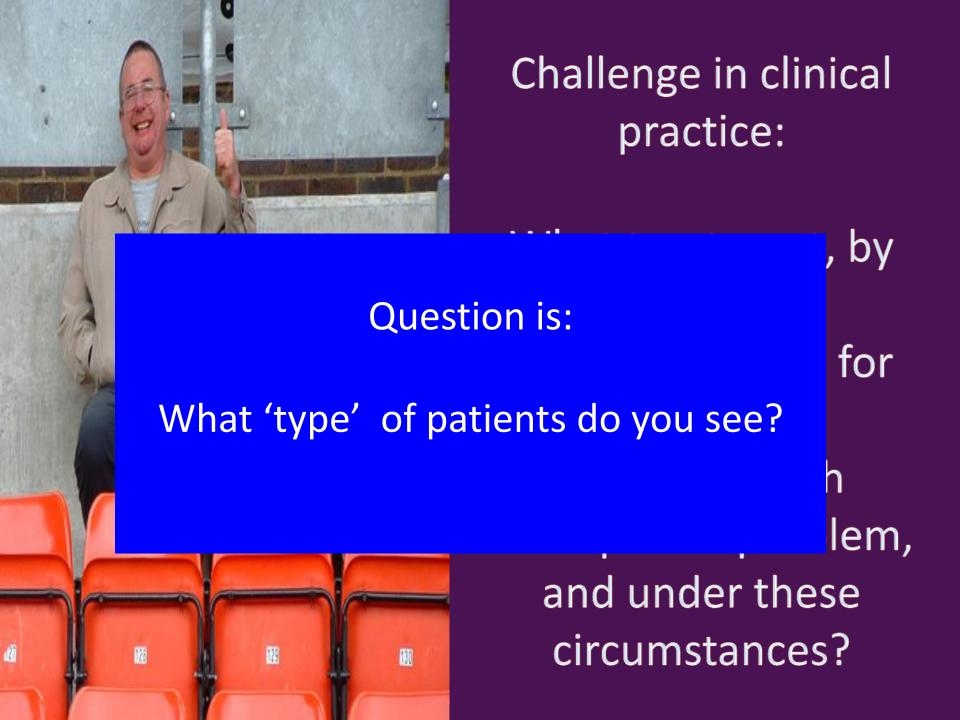
# No consensus exist about content, duration and frequency



## Large practice variations

due to

Characteristics of admitted patients
Treatment rationale or model used
Type of disciplines present in the team
Expertise of team members
Primary, secondary, tertiary care



#### **Dutch Dataset Pain Rehabilitation**

based on IMMPACT- core set

#### Generic part

#### Questionnaires in 8 domains

Pain –fatigueNRS 0-10

DisabilityPDI

Work participation

Patients needs COPM

Physical FunctioningSF36

Mental Functioning
 SF36, PCS, HADS

Medical consumption

Satisfaction treatment and negative consequences of treatment



#### Severe complex patients in Adelante

Percentage women	70%
Average pain duration	0 F vca

Average pain duration 9.5 years

Paid job, most on sick leave 30%

Use of daily pain medication 80%

Generalized pain syndrome 54%

Previous psychological treatment 70%

Previous pain management 85%

Pain severity on average (0-10) 7

Fatigue on average (0-10) 7.5

Pain related disability 60% PDI score > 42

Anxiety scores HADS 80% scored > 8

Depression scores HADS 69% scored > 8



#### Multimodal Pain Rehabilitation Adelante

Behavorial oriented interdisciplinary treatment program under supervision of rehabilitation physician

The primary goal of multimodal pain rehabilitation is learning patients to cope with pain and pain related disability in order to improve daily functioning despite pain.

Pain reduction is not a primary goal

#### Assessment phase

Phase 1

**Dutch Dataset Pain Rehabilitation** 

Medical intake by physician

---- First go / no go -----

Multi-screening on pain and pain-related disability

Phase 2

## Multi-screening by PT, OT, PS

#### Standardized approach

Patients demand for help  $\rightarrow$  activity related!

Pain

Activity level and pattern

Beliefs about pain and pain & being active

**Emotions** 

Social Environment

History taken, scores of questionnaires and performance tests

#### Patients demands for help

Canadian Occupational Performance Measure COPM

Neutral semi-structured interview

3 most important problems in daily activities the patient wants to improve

## Several activity patterns

Table 3				
Mean and standard	d deviations for comparisor	ns between clusters on	measures of pain	and functioning

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Note. Overall tests for an effect of clusters were non-significant in the cases of depression and psychosocial disability.

#### Pain beliefs and emotions

History taken

Discus scores of PCS, IPQ, HADS

Photo's of daily activties → asking about beliefs and observing emotions



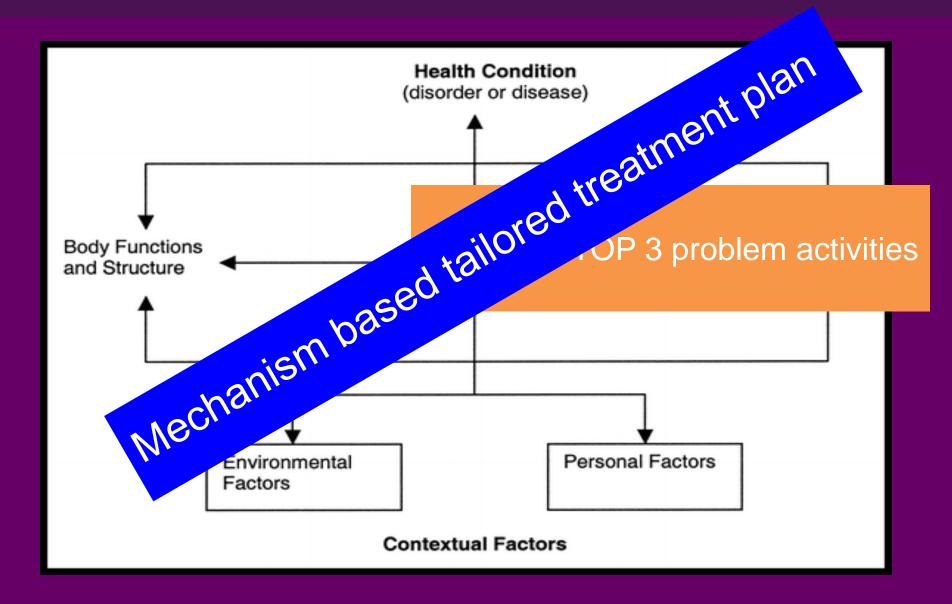
#### Social environment

Spouse is invited for the screening

Support of spouse /significant other/ collegues etc...



## Problem analysis

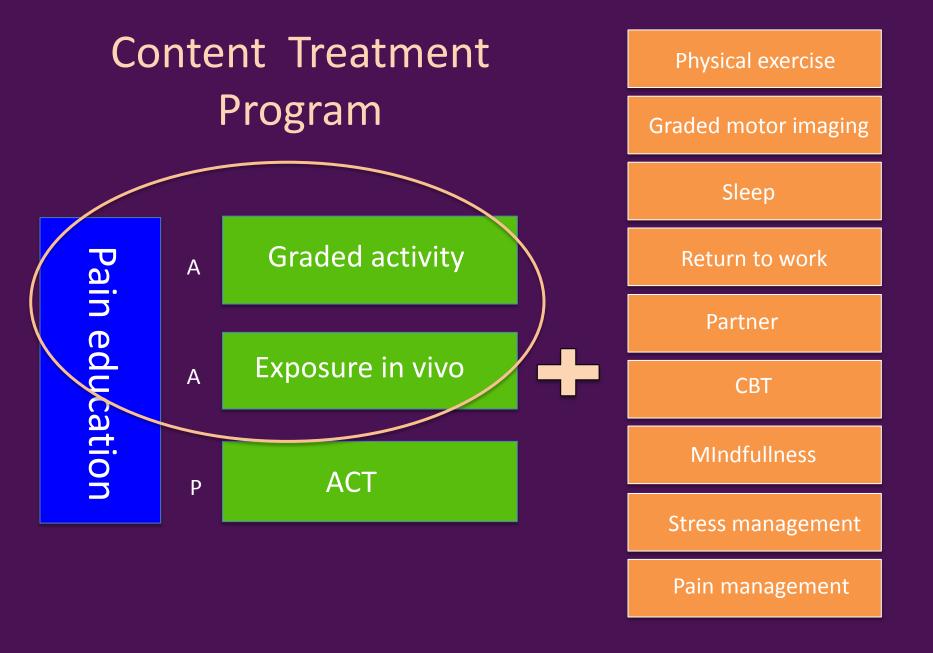


#### Shared decision

Problem analysis is discused with the patient the same day

Pain education: mechanisms and treatment rationale are explained

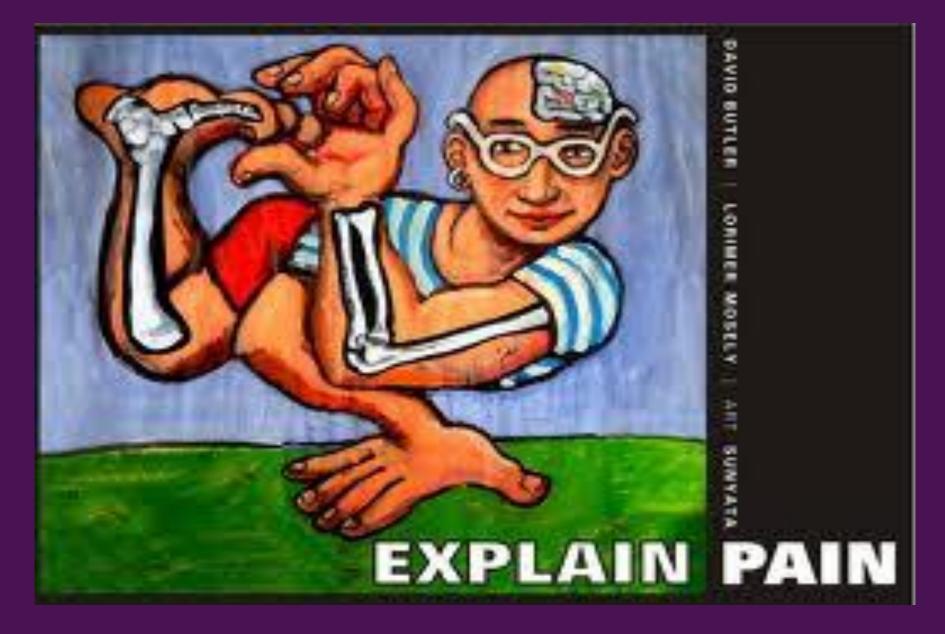
Patients is given time (1 week) to consider the proposal



Basic modules

Complementary modules

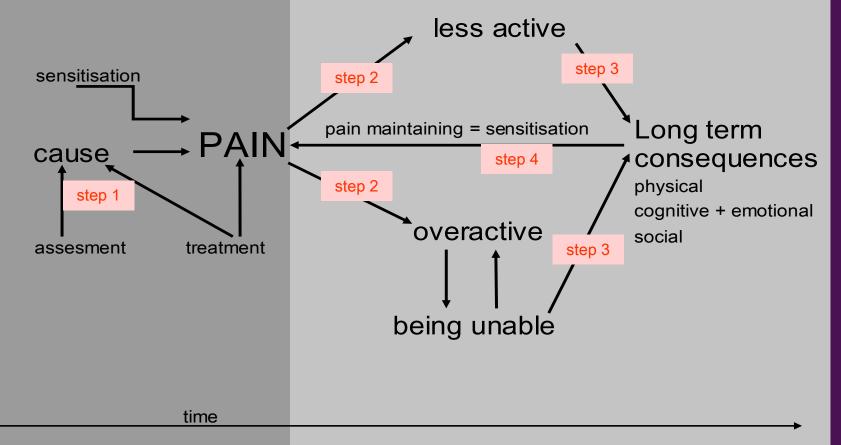
#### Pain Education



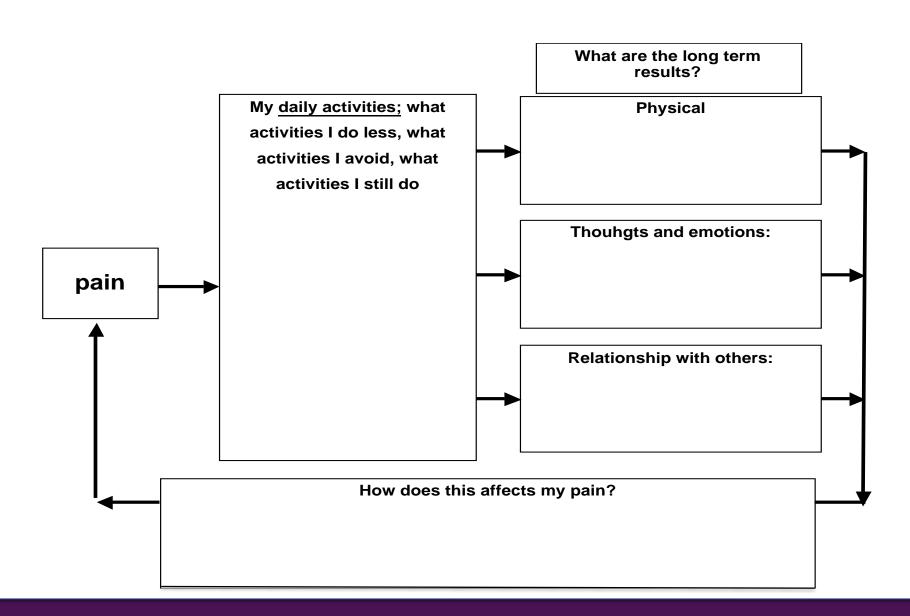
## Pain Consequence Model

Medical appoach, focus on assesment and treatment of pain

Rehabilitation, focus on personal consequences and maintaining factors of pain



## Homework assignment



## Team and patient must have a shared reconceptualization of the pain problem



#### Pain education is effective

Louw 2016, Nijs 2017

#### **BUT NOT ENOUGH**

better understanding of pain and pain related disability is a premise for succesfull treatment

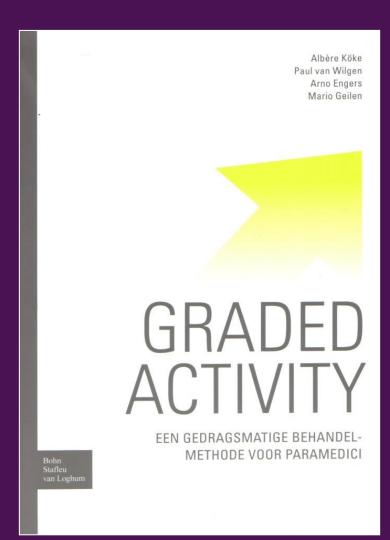
positive expierences by becoming active will change beliefs succesfully on long term

#### **Graded Activity**

A therapy form aiming at increasing daily life activities according to a time quoted scheme.

Patient learns to increase and structure his daily life activities independent from pain.

Based on operant learning theories



# Pain behavior based on operant conditioning

 $S \rightarrow O \rightarrow R \rightarrow C$ 

C= Positive-Rewarding or C= Negative=Punishing





#### Proces of Graded Activity

Phase 1

Phase 2

Phase 3

Pain education
Reinforcers of behavior

Choose meaningful activities - goals
Set up a baseline of chosen activities
Set start level and quotas to goal

Treatment

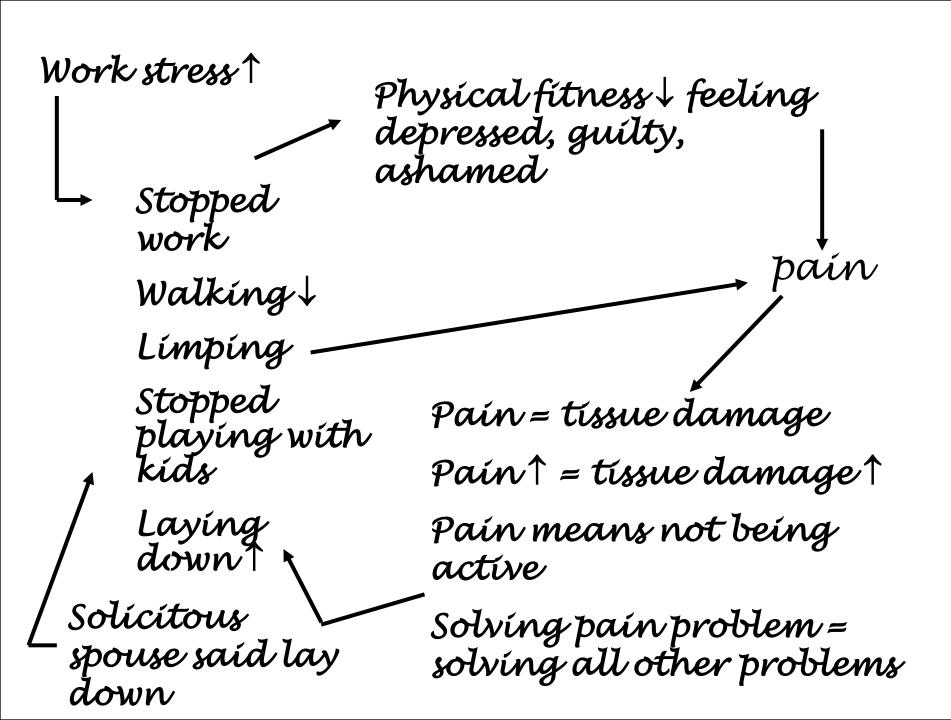
Reinforce every step towards the goal

Extinction of pain behavior

Generalization

## Anton walking at assesment





## Anton's goals

- 1. improve his walking pattern
- 2. walk for at least 20 minutes to bring the kids to their school
- 3. wants to play soccer with his kids
- 4. return to work
- 5. ride bike (25 minutes) to go to work

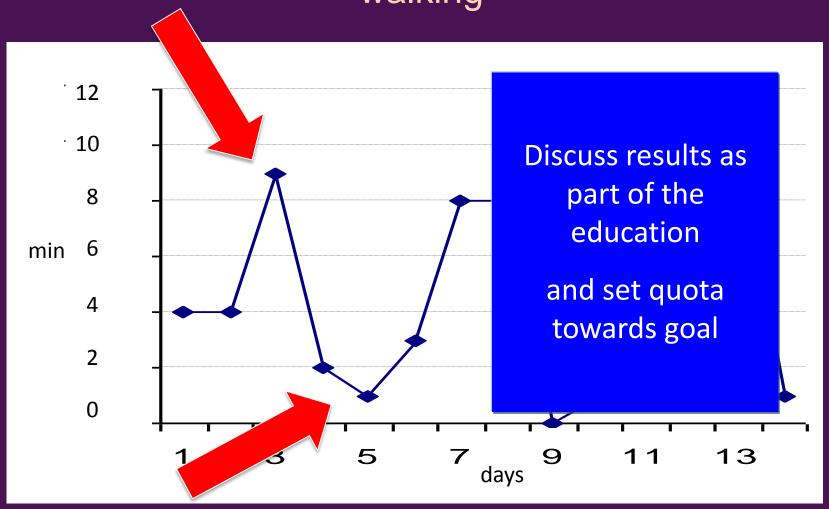
#### Goals must be:

meaningful for the patient (life values) set by the patient himself context based on activity or participation level achievable but challinging

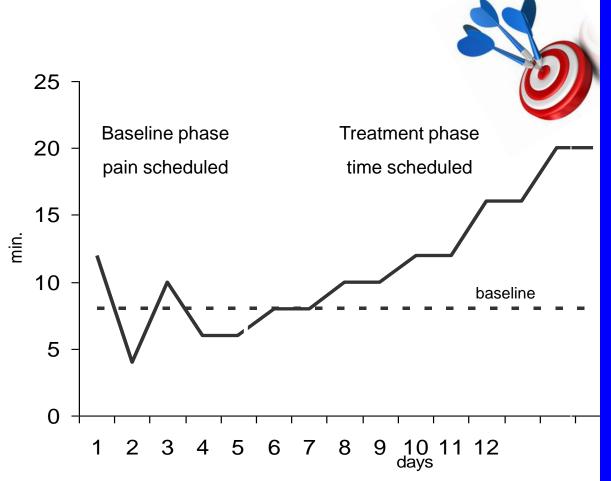


# Baseline

walking



# Coaching the patient



Only reward every step towards the goal

Monitor progress → graphics

Provide feedback on performance

No rewarding for pain Extinction

### **Action Plan**

strong evidence for increasing physical activity and self efficacy williams 2011

What I'm going to do exactly? How many? When? What day, what time of the day? How many days a week?
Example: "This week I go walking outside ( what) for 6 minutes ( how much), every other day (how many days) after dinner ( when).
Action plan for week nr: This week I go:
(what)(how much)(how many days)(when)
How sure am I that I'll manage this?? (rate yourself a number between 0-10) I'm convinced that I will succeed
Put a cross on each day you finish the action
Comments: Monday:
Tuesday:
Wednesday:
Thursday:
Friday:
Saturday:
Sundays

# Generalization: success on long term

Decrease reinforcements

Conduct action plans in daily situations under different conditions

Draw up an inventory of pitfalls

Relapse ≠ failure



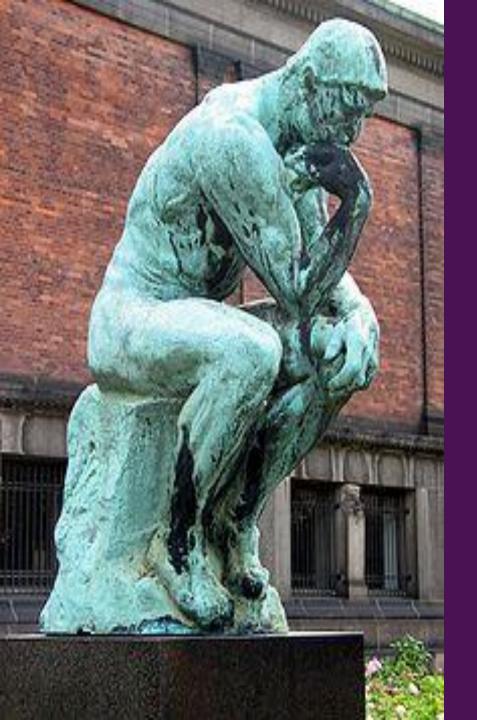
# Anton walking at end of treatment



# "Fear of pain is more disabling than pain itself"

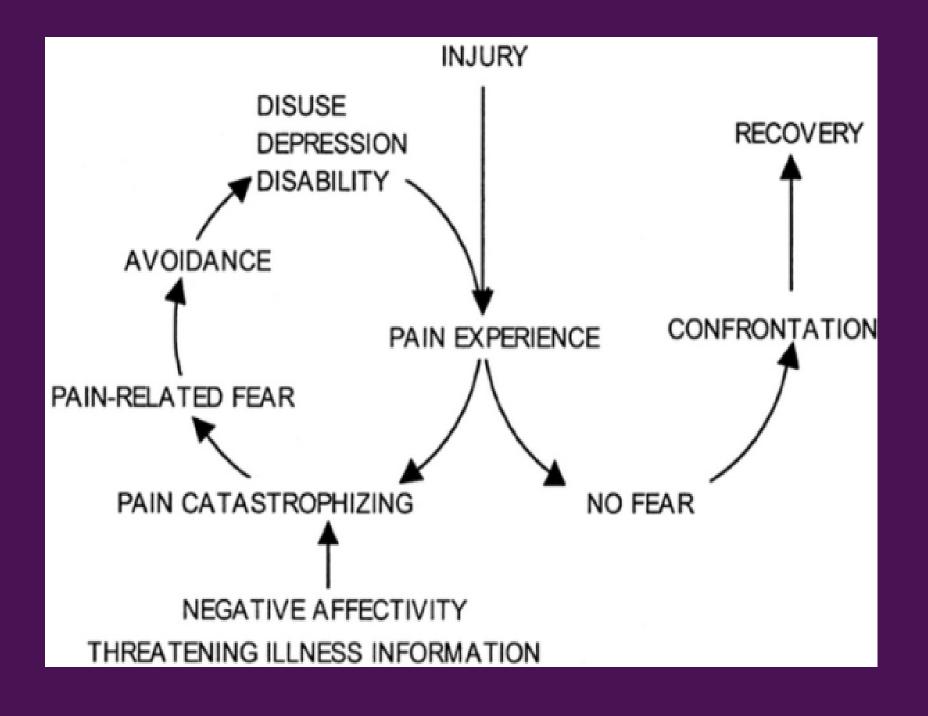
Waddell '92





Pain-related fear emerges when pain is interpreted as "catastrophic,"

urging
patients to avoid painful
activity or cues that predict
pain and increases in pain.



### Exposure in Vivo

Exposure aims at improving functional ability by reducing the perceived harmfulness of activities

Assumption is that when individuals expose themselves to painful movement they can readjust their expectancies about the associations between movements and increased pain

Based on other exposure treatment

### Proces of exposure in vivo

Phase 1

Personal hierarchy of movements/activities that are threatening using PHODA

Phase 2

Medical education

Personalized fear avoidance model

Phase 3

Treatment; exposure in vivo and behavioral experiments

## PHoDA

### Photograph series of daily activities



low back, neck, shoulder upper extermity, lower extremity

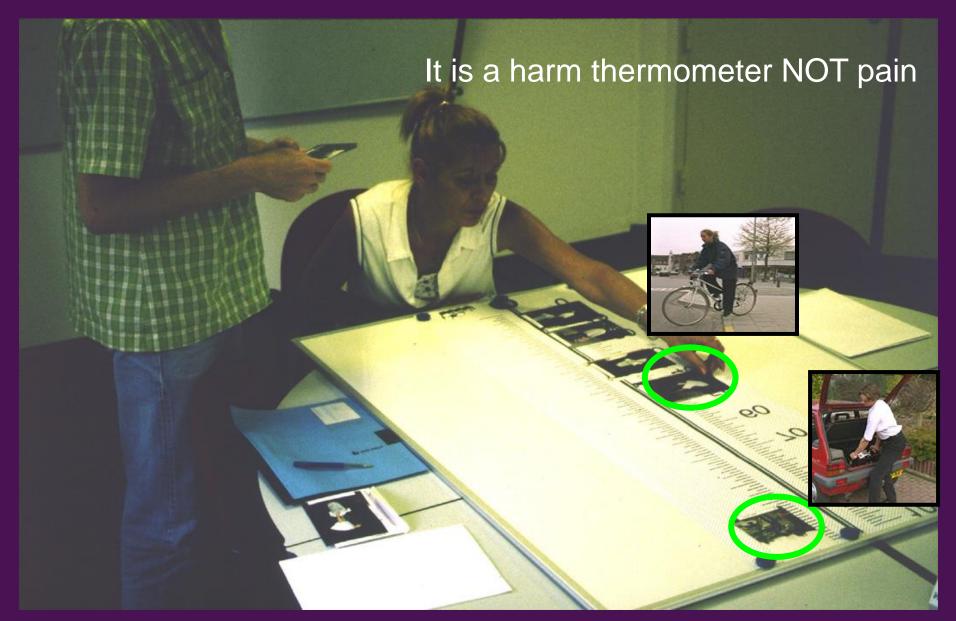








# Establish a fear hierarchy



### Medical Education

by rehabilitation physician

Biomedical pathology versus functional abilities

Discuss results of diagnostic tests in the past

Provide message that moving/ being active is SAFE

Preparing patient for exposure



### Education part 2 personalized fear avoidance model

#### **Negative consequences:**

- Physical fitness decreased
  - Feeling depressed, guilty, angry
  - Experiencing less quality of life
  - Sleep disturbances

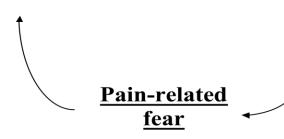
#### **Behavior:**

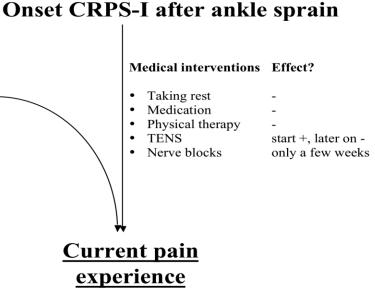
- Avoiding playing with sons, working as a nurse, sports, riding a bike
- Walking with crutches when outdoors
- Sitting while ironing, cooking, getting the kids dressed
- Pacing (good and bad days)

### Current pain experience

#### **Cognitions:**

- If the pain increases and I go on, I have to blame myself for ending up in a wheelchair
- Pain is a sign that something is wrong (doctor told me: CRPS = inflammation of the nerves)
- I have to be careful otherwise CRPS will spread to my other leg or to my arms





# Exposure with behavioral experiments

Activity is chosen from PHODA → personal relevance

Patient formulates expectations about what will happen when they execute the activity  $\rightarrow$  psychologist

Physical therapist shows activity

Patient performs activity, without safety behavior, as normal as possible

Evaluate and discuss expectancies and repeat the activity

# The more specific the better



# Sometimes you have to improvise



### Homework

Do these activities at home: the more specific the situation the better

Next session performance at home is discussed

Usefull for long term consequences/expectanties e.g." as I lift that box I cannot do anything the rest of the day"

### Effectiveness

GA and GE are both effective treatments for pain related disability (Macedo 2010)

GE is more effective as GA in reducing fear avoidance beliefs (de Leeuw 2008, de Jong 2009, 2013)

GA is more effective than usual care in patients with very low levels of daily activities and low feelings of control (Veenhof 2006)

GE is more effective than pain contingent physical therapy in CRPS (den Hollander 2017)

# Effectiveness of multimodal treatment

In general more effective than monodisciplinair treatment (several systematic reviews of RCT's and clinical studies)

BUT  $\rightarrow$  effect sizes are small to moderate

Long term results are questionable

# Summary and Conclusion

Pain is a complex multifactorial problem

A multimodal treatment is the best option

However best content, duration and frequency of treatment is still unknown for an indiviual patient

### Questions for the future

What works best for whom?

Could BIG DATA help us?

# Thank you for listening

