

*MWeber et al. Pain. April (2001) Vol.91 #3 p 251*

A study of chronic regional pain syndrome (CRPS) and the role of neurogenic inflammation, i.e. inflammation, that is generated by nerve activity.

10 cases of CRPS were compared with 10 health normal controls. Both groups were subject to regional electrical stimulation and changes in vasodilatation and extravasation of proteins were measured locally.

Cases displayed a significantly increased inflammation response, evidenced by a marked increase in vasodilatation and a measurable increase in extravasation. All measurements were limited to skin changes.

Comment

The study is relatively small, and imprecise in its design. However, it is consistent with a general trend of findings that show that the nervous system is capable of becoming permanently hyper responsive.

Whether or not this would be described as harm depends very much on the causal model that is adopted.

