

Pain Types

PAIN TYPE	SUBTYPE	DESCRIPTORS	EXAMPLES
NOCICEPTIVE	Somatic – pain of the skin, joints, muscle, bone or connective tissue	Well-localized - aching, throbbing	Acute – surgical incisions, muscle or joint sprain Chronic - arthritis, metastatic bone pain
	Visceral – pain of the visceral organs	Poorly localized – aching, gnawing, cramping, squeezing	Acute – bladder infection, bowel obstruction Chronic – pancreatic cancer, metastatic cancer to the liver
NEUROPATHIC		Burning, shooting, stabbing, shock like	Diabetic neuropathy, phantom limb pain, stroke, post herpetic neuralgia, spinal cord injury, sciatica