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Epicritic Pain

Kerry Donnelly
VA WNY Healthcare System, University of
Buffalo (SUNY) Behavioral Health Careline
(116B), Buffalo, NY, USA

Definition

A variant of *nociceptive pain* (pain resulting from ongoing activation of primary afferent neurons by noxious stimuli), *epicritic pain* is transmitted to the spinal cord by A Delta (δ) fibers. These fibers are sparsely myelinated, large-diameter, and fast-

conducting, which transmit sharp, well-localized pain. A δ fibers are mostly sensitive to mechanical and thermal stimuli. Epicritic pain is less responsive to opioid therapy than is *protopathic pain*.

Cross-References

► [Protopathic Pain](#)

References and Readings

McCaffery, M., & Pasero, C. (1999). *Pain clinical manual* (2nd ed.). St. Louis: Mosby.