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Protopathic Pain

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Definition

A variant of nociceptive pain (pain resulting from ongoing activation of primary afferent neurons by noxious stimuli), *protopathic pain* is transmitted by C fibers to the spinal cord. C-fibers are unmyelinated, small-diameter, and slow-conducting,

resulting in poorly localized, dull, aching pain. The fibers are sensitive to mechanical, thermal, and chemical stimuli, resulting in diffuse pain which is particularly sensitive to opioid therapy.

Cross-References

► [Epicritic Pain](#)

References and Readings

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