

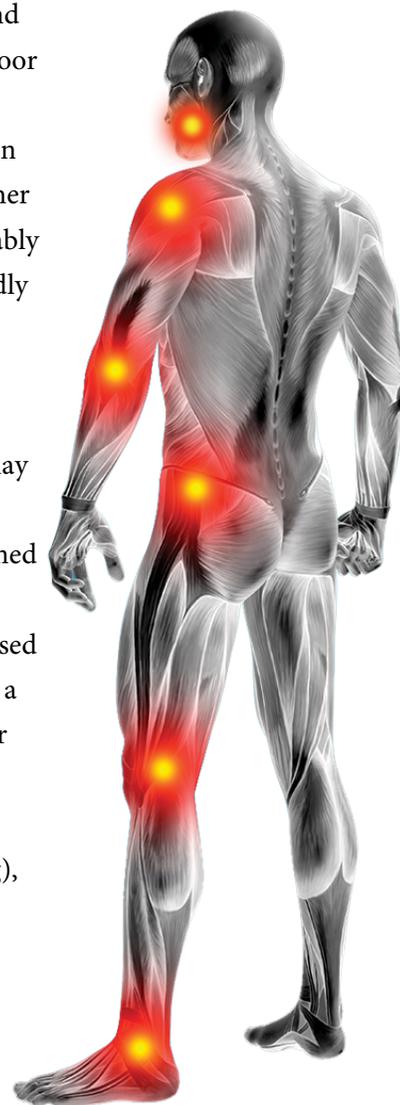
# General Pain Information Sheet

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## Important Treatments for Pain:

Injections generally provide a temporary reduction in pain which is meant to help you start a rehabilitation plan, which includes physical therapy and psychology. All of the items below may be important to your plan. Evidence has shown that the most important things you can do are cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and active (not passive!) physical therapy. I will discuss these as well as others below. OHIP and private insurance will cover some of what you need; however, it may not cover everything, and you will have to invest both time and money in order to return to your maximum level of functioning.

- Pain Psychology: The mind has tremendous power over pain and we use it subconsciously all the time. Learning how to react and adapt to pain and its consequences can result in a range of emotional problems, such as depression and pain-related fear, which can lead to other negative effects on cognition such as poor concentration and memory, and failure to complete cognitive tasks.
  - We know that we are able to interpret pain in different ways depending on the circumstances, even though the pain is the same. For example, a mother who has been looking forward to and preparing to have a child will probably experience less pain during birth than a teenager who became unexpectedly pregnant and is terrified or unprepared to have a baby. The pain they are going through is the same; however, they will experience it differently. Training your brain through Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) is an effective way to alleviate some of the negative emotional responses you may have to your pain.
  - CBT is a common treatment for chronic pain - this form of therapy is aimed at reducing the influencing factors that create and maintain negative behaviours, beliefs, or thought patterns. CBT teaches patients how increased awareness of thoughts can reduce the severity of painful symptoms using a range of specific behavioural strategies to change interactions within their environment.
  - In these sessions, patients are educated about behavioural principles (e.g. conditioning, reinforcement, pain/illness behaviours, attentional training), and how they interact with pain & disability; relaxation & controlled breathing techniques; and how to monitor situational factors that trigger pain/stress and what they actually experience emotionally, behaviourally, and physically when they have pain or stress.



o Emotions: The pain centre in the brain is able to decide whether or not to send pain signals to the amygdala, which is the emotion centre of the brain. The amygdala is responsible for enabling feelings such as fear, anxiety, and depression. When the brain is overwhelmed with pain signals, it sends signals to the amygdala to trigger these emotions when it otherwise wouldn't.

o The Way Out by Alan Gordon describes more on how the brain and body interact and provides some useful tools for reducing pain

For group or individual courses in Thornhill:

CBT Psychology

7626 Yonge St., Thornhill ON, L4J 1V9

Phone: 905-597-4404

Other resources: OPEN PATH <http://oppc.mentalhealthexcellence.org/therapy-within-reach>

OHIP Covered: <http://www.selfhelp.on.ca/2015/08/cbt-therapists-ohip-covered/>

**Please also see the second last page for a list of pain psychologists around the GTA**

- **Movement and Low Impact Exercise.** Physical inactivity can lead to weakened muscles, worsening arthritis, increased pain and less mobility. Do exercises that are gentle on your back. Walking is the simplest and most readily available exercise for low back pain. Gentle yoga, cycling, Tai Chi, qigong, swimming, aqua-therapy - whatever you like that doesn't put too much pressure on the part that hurts - it is very important to keep moving. Aqua-therapy provides a program where you can get moving in a safe and comfortable environment. Exercise also helps to keep your bones and muscles strong which provides support for your joints.
- **Active Physical Therapy.** This is a very important part of any rehab program. Be sure to have an ACTIVE rehab physical therapy plan - not passive. Such a plan should involve condition-specific and patient-specific education on expectations, the recovery process, self-care strategies, and pain science. All delivered in combination with an active care rehabilitation / exercise program. All treatments should be aligned with the goal of improving a patient's active engagement and ability to engage in their own recovery. Bookings for a physiotherapist or chiropractor can be made through the front desk, or you can search for a clinic closer to you. If pain is in your leg - "MacKenzie" exercises may help. Stuart McGill's "The Big Three" back exercises may help - these are available on YouTube. An initial assessment with a clinician will help identify the areas of weakness and individual plan of care using physical exercises and/or electronic devices. A physiotherapist will help with strengthening supportive muscles which will take the strain off the affected joint. Your physical therapist may recommend supportive equipment to help decrease pain and improve mobility.
- **Acupuncture.** This treatment can help increase blood flow to the affected joint and promote healing.

- **Nutrition.** Very important! It is not just about weight loss, which is important to less the load on the spine as well as decreased inflammation associated with certain types of body fat, but also about learning to avoid foods which can cause inflammation in the body. There are also foods which fight inflammation!

It is very important to see a holistic nutritionist to assess what you are eating, and to make suggestions about what can be improved upon. It is not about going on a diet, which tends to be unsuccessful in the long run, but rather making small changes that have a BIG impact! It is about keeping eating enjoyable and fun, but also healthy and sustainable. This is probably one of the most important parts of getting better.

If you are receiving steroid injections, it is very important to keep your bones healthy. Talk to your family doctor about whether you should be taking Vitamin D, calcium, or other bone strengthening medications. In addition, Vitamin K2 90mg (which usually comes with Vitamin D, and is different than Vitamin K) has been shown to help bone strength.

Foods that fight inflammation include: tomatoes, olive oil, green leafy vegetables, nuts (raw almonds, walnuts), fatty fish (salmon, mackerel, tuna, sardines), fruits (strawberries, blueberries, cherries, and oranges).

Foods that cause inflammation: refined carbohydrates (white bread, pastries, bagels, muffins), fried foods, pop, refined sugars, red meat (burgers, steaks, unless grass fed), processed meat (hot dogs, sausages), margarine, shortening and lard.

Incidentally, egg yolks, butter and health fat yogurt (Greek for example) is GOOD for you. Avoid low-fat foofs as the taste is replaced by sugar which is BAD for you.

- If you are finding that, despite everything you are doing, you are not able to lose weight, you may consider exploring Intermittent Fasting. You can find out more about this in a very readable book *The Complete Guide to Fasting* by Jason Fung MD.
- **Holistic Nutritionist.** More information about foods that cause inflammation and foods that fight inflammation can be found at:
  - <http://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/foods-that-fight-inflammation> Intermittent Fasting Resource: *The Complete Guide to Fasting* by Jason Fung MD
  - [Please see back page for information on Registered Dietitians and Nutritionists in the GTA](#)
- **Support Groups.** Especially helpful for fibromyalgia and chronic pain disorder.
- **Biofeedback.** Especially helpful in headaches, jaw problems, fibromyalgia, brain injuries, and arthritis.
- **Podcasts and Applications.** "Aches and Gains" podcast with Dr. Paul Christo. "Calm" is an application which helps with meditation and relaxation. "Headspace" is a medication podcast which has a section dedicated to managing chronic pain.

- **Books.** A great resource is Stuart McGill's book "Back Mechanic" coupled with his "Big Three" low back exercises which you can find on google. These exercises should be added to your daily routine regardless of the location of your pain. If seeing a physiotherapist, they should prescribe you exercises in addition to McGill's "Big Three." As well, 'The Way Out: A Revolutionary Approach to Healing Chronic Pain' by Alan Gordon, provides excellent insight into how pain affects the nervous system including the brain and how you can harness the power of your brains to decrease the amount of pain we experience. Yes, the body and mind are intimately connected!

Medical treatments available to treat pain include:

- Surgery
- Anti-inflammatory Drug Therapy
- Steroid Injections
- PRP (platelet rich plasma) Injections
- Prolotherapy
- Medications
- Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA)
- Lidocaine Infusion

### **Medications**

Anti-inflammatories like ibuprofen (Advil) may be helpful but may cause heartburn, stomach ulcers, high blood pressure and kidney problems. These medications can be taken both orally and topically.

Acetaminophen is another option for chronic pain which is safe and relatively well tolerated at recommended dosages.

Pain related to nerve injury:

There are three types of medications which can help with pain related to damaged nerves:

1. Tricyclic Antidepressants (TCA's): these were found to help for pain as well as sleep and depression. Although depression and pain often co-exist, they don't necessarily. At doses lower than are used to treat depression, it was discovered that these medications also help with pain. Most common medications are amitriptyline (Elavil) and nortriptyline (Aventyl).
2. Anti-Convulsant Drugs (ACD's): pregabalin (Lyrica) and gabapentin (Neurontin): common side effects are dizziness and drowsiness which may go away as your body gets used to the medication.
3. Serotonin Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRI's): duloxetine (Cymbalta), desvenlafaxine (Pristiq) and venlafaxine (Effexor).

These medications also help to heal damaged nerves and decrease pain.

Your doctor will likely start these medications at a low dose and gradually to allow your body to get used to the medication as some people have side effects such as dizziness and fatigue. The dose is increased until you have relief from pain, the side effects are worse than the benefit of the medication, or the drug's dose is at its maximum.

### **What are Cortisone / Steroid Injections?**

Cortisone is a medicine that is injected into the body to help ease pain and swelling from arthritis, injury, or illness. Cortisone shots are sometimes called corticosteroids or steroids. These are not the same steroid used by body builders and/or athletes; your muscles will not get bigger. This medication mimics the effects of the hormone cortisol, which is produced naturally by our adrenal glands.

### **How much Cortisone / Steroid can I have?**

It is recommended by the Canadian Osteoporosis Society not to receive more than 560mg of triamcinolone acetate per year, however this may vary depending on other health factors and need for pain relief.

### **What is PRP?**

Platelet rich plasma (PRP) is blood plasma with concentrated platelets (the body's repairmen for damaged tissues). The concentrated platelets found in PRP contain growth factors that are vital to initiate and accelerate tissue repair and regeneration. These bio-active proteins initiate connective tissue healing and repair, promote development of new blood vessels, and stimulate the healing process.

If you would like more information about this type of treatment, please discuss with your MD, or grab one of our information pamphlets in the clinic.

### **What is Radiofrequency Ablation?**

Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA) is a procedure using a special needle that heats nerves to reduce pain. An electrical current produced by a radio wave is used to heat up a small area of nerve tissue, essentially burning part of the nerve and thereby decreasing pain signals from that area.

RFA typically targets the medial branch nerves, which are located around the spinal facet joints.

RFA has been shown to demonstrate some short-term chronic pain reduction, but does not provide much benefit in the long run. It is a procedure that is suggested more for elderly patients who may be receiving palliative care, or who have exhausted all other resources.

If you are a candidate for this procedure, you will be referred to a clinic who provides RFA by one of our physicians.

### **What is Prolotherapy?**

Prolotherapy also known as regenerative injection therapy. It is a recognized orthopaedic procedure that stimulates the body's natural healing processes to strengthen joints, tendons, and ligaments weakened by traumatic or overuse injury. When joint, ligament, and/or tendon attachments are stretched, torn, or fragmented, they become hypermobile and painful. Traditional approaches with surgery and anti-inflammatory drugs often fail to stabilize the joint, tendon, and/or ligament strength and relieved pain. Prolotherapy, with its unique ability to directly address the cause of instability, awakens the body's healing cells to repair the weakened sites and produce new fibrous tissues, resulting in improved stabilization of the joints, ligaments, and/or tendons. If you would like more information regarding this treatment, please discuss with your MD or grab one of our information pamphlets in the clinic.

### **What is Lidocaine Infusion?**

Intravenous lidocaine infusion is administered to treat chronic pain, widespread pain, and neuropathic (nerve) pain. Lidocaine decreases pain receptors sensitivity and hyperexcitability. It also has potent anti-inflammatory properties with fewer side effects. It is especially effective in relieving the mechanical allodynia (experience of pain when there should not be) and hyperalgesia (experience of exaggerated pain) with chronic neuropathic (nerve) pain. Lidocaine should be reserved for those who have not responded adequately to other pain treatments.

Information provided for you by Dr. Michael Wansbrough.



ORTHOPAEDIC REHABILITATION INSTITUTE

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North York, ON M3B 1Y6

(647)349-7880

[www.orthorehab.ca](http://www.orthorehab.ca)

## Chronic Pain Psychologists in the GTA

- **Sara Trought** (MA, RP, Member of OACCPP)  
Languages Spoken: English  
Professional Psychotherapy Services  
211 Danforth, 3rd Floor  
Toronto, ON M4K  
(855) 873-4454  
sara@therapytoronto.ca  
Cost Per Session: \$120-150
- **Rob Nolan** (Psychologist, PhD, CPsych)  
Languages Spoken: English and French  
1235 Bay Street  
7th Floor Reception  
Toronto, Ontario M5R  
(647) 933-5324  
  
Cost per session: \$200 - \$220
- **Andrika Rook** (RP (Q), BA, OPC, Dipl., Psych.)  
Languages Spoken: English and Ukrainian  
14 Prince Arthur Avenue  
Suite 312  
Toronto, Ontario M5R  
(416) 962-8255  
  
Cost per session: \$120
- **Paul Kelly** (Psychologist)  
Languages Spoken: Farsi, Hebrew, Hindi, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Urdu and French  
The Mindfulness Clinic  
700 Bay Street  
Suite 2200  
Toronto, Ontario M5G  
(855) 507-0092  
  
Cost per session: \$150-250  
Group Therapy Available: Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT), Social Anxiety/Social Phobia Program, Mindful Self Compassion Group
- **Nilu Kulatunga** (Registered Psychotherapist (Qualifying), CCC, MA, MSc)  
Languages Spoken: English and Sinhalese  
Humber Bay Physio Inc.  
2137 Lake Shore Boulevard West  
Etobicoke, Ontario M8V  
(647) 492-3511  
  
Cost per session: \$120-130
- **Leila Abbaszadeh** (Clinical Social Work/Therapist, MSW, RSW, RP)  
Languages Spoken: English and Farsi  
North York, Ontario M2K  
(888) 539-9221  
  
Cost per session: \$150
- **Mariia Cohan** (Registered Psychotherapist (Qualifying), M.Psych, RP (Q))  
Languages Spoken: English and Russian  
L-Tower  
8 The Esplanade  
Toronto, Ontario M5E  
(647) 360-2234  
  
Cost per session: \$80-120
- **Caroline Rosta** (Registered Psychotherapist, M.Sc., M.A., OACCPP)  
Languages Spoken: English and Spanish  
1020 Eglinton Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario M6C  
Call Ms. Caroline Rosta  
(647) 560-0711  
  
Cost per session: \$130-180
- **Dr. Andrew Wong** (Psychologist, PhD, CPsych)  
● Languages Spoken: English and Cantonese  
Andrew Wong Psychological Services  
Etobicoke, Ontario M9B  
(877) 571-3037  
  
Cost per session: \$180
- **Mihaela Dirlea** (Clinical Social Work/Therapist, MSW, RSW)  
717 Bloor St W  
Toronto, Ontario M6G  
(647) 492-4318  
  
Cost per session: \$90-120  
Group Therapy Available: Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT)

## Holistic Nutritionists and Registered Dietitians in the GTA

- **Jill Hillhouse** (BA, BPHE, CNP, RNT)  
<http://jillhillhouse.com/personal-nutrition-consulting/>

P3 health  
145 Front St. East, Suite G2  
Toronto, ON M5A 1E3  
416-699-3636

- **Lara Frendjian** (RHN, CPA, CA)  
<https://mycompletebalance.com/our-services/nutritional-counselling/>

Complete Balance  
1100 Sheppard Ave East, Unit 309  
Toronto, ON M2K 2W1  
416-901-2873

Cost: \$120/Initial Appt., \$85/Follow-up Appt.

- **Renita Lam** (BSc, MPH, RD)  
<http://renitalam.com/services/>  
\*\* Speaks English & Cantonese

North York @ 701 Sheppard Medical -  
701 Sheppard Ave. East, Unit 218  
Downtown Toronto @ Kyle Byron  
Nutrition - 98 Richmond St. East, Unit  
450  
Markham - 2600 John St., Unit 113  
647-725-9765

- **Samantha Goren** (HBSc, RD)  
<http://foodhomeco.com/>

Toronto Psychology and Wellness  
Group  
3080 Yonge St., Suite 5090  
Toronto, ON M5M 4N1  
647-400-5579  
[info@foodhomeco.ca](mailto:info@foodhomeco.ca)

- **Andrea Miller** (MHSc, RD)  
<http://www.amillerrd.ca>

105 Consumers Dr., Unit 2  
Whitby, ON L1N 1C4  
905-233-2437

Cost: \$100-\$650

- **Elizabeth Gullaher** (RD, MHSc, BSc)  
<http://www.thetherapycentre.ca/nutrition-counselling/>

The Therapy Centre  
2525 Old Bronte Rd., Suite 320  
Oakville, ON L6M 4J2  
289-291-0205

- **Maria Fisher** (RD)  
<http://www.mariafisher.ca/services.html>

Aurora Medial Clinic  
372 Hollandview Trail, Suite 302  
Aurora, ON L4G 0A5  
416-919-7130

Cost: \$20-180

- **Anisha Gupta** (RD)  
<https://hellonutrition.ca/>

Mississauga - 6033 Shawson Dr.,  
Unit 8  
Markham - 26 Starry Sky Ave.  
647-408-6474

Cost: \$130-500