

Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on CRPS: An issue to be revisited

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Complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) characterizes by disproportionate pain restricted to regions (but not to a specific dermatome), mainly affect extremities, severe and continuous in nature pain in the affected extremity and can have oedema, trophic/ motor changes, sensory, vasomotor and sudomotor symptoms [1]. CRPS in the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 is not only an issue of clinical concern but also a concern of pharmaceutical and economic interest [2]. It has been reported that up to 50,000 new cases of CRPS do occur per year in the United States in the general population [3]. The management of CRPS is controversial and at the same time, the results are variable [4]. The literature suggests pharmacological strategies as well as alternative methods to control pain [5-8]. Studies have suggested sequential stages management of CRPS and concluded that it will provide better pain control [3]. These issues of CRPS have been addressed in the past [9], however, the approach to CRPS needs to be updated from the perspective of COVID-19 [10]. It is anticipated that the burden of such a complex syndrome on patients can have social and psychological impacts and there is a need to develop strategies where the patients can access the health in an effective and uninterrupted manner. The literature suggests that management of chronic pain should be considered an essential service [11] and there is a need to develop strategies and guidelines for the remote management (either telemedicine [11] or eHealth [12] of CRPS) during this current COVID-19 pandemic.

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