

Introduction

- Complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) - painful and debilitating condition
- Typically presents after sustaining trauma or surgical insult to a limb
- Few case reports of CRPS developing in an uninjured limb after prolonged immobilization during surgery.

Case Summary

- 37 yo M PMH kidney stones, ADHD, cystic fibrosis/w pancreatic insufficiency for robotic low anterior approach rectal resection for rectal cancer
- Underwent GA in the supine lithotomy position with no intraoperative complications
- After waking up from surgery, the patient complained of LLE pain as well as numbness over the middle 3 toes of the left foot → swelling and tenderness over the area.
- Negative in hospital work up → lidocaine infusion
- Out patient follow up in pain clinic - diagnosed with neuropathic pain in sciatic distribution, ordered EMG
- EMG - left sciatic neuropathy with the lesion likey localizing to the left hip or thigh with moderate axonal loss with involvement of both the fibular and tibial distributions of the nerve.
- Conservative treatment – PT, pregabalin, duloxetine with reasonable control of his symptoms.
- After 6 months, developed allodynia and skin color changes. Evaluated and diagnosed with CRPS Type 2.

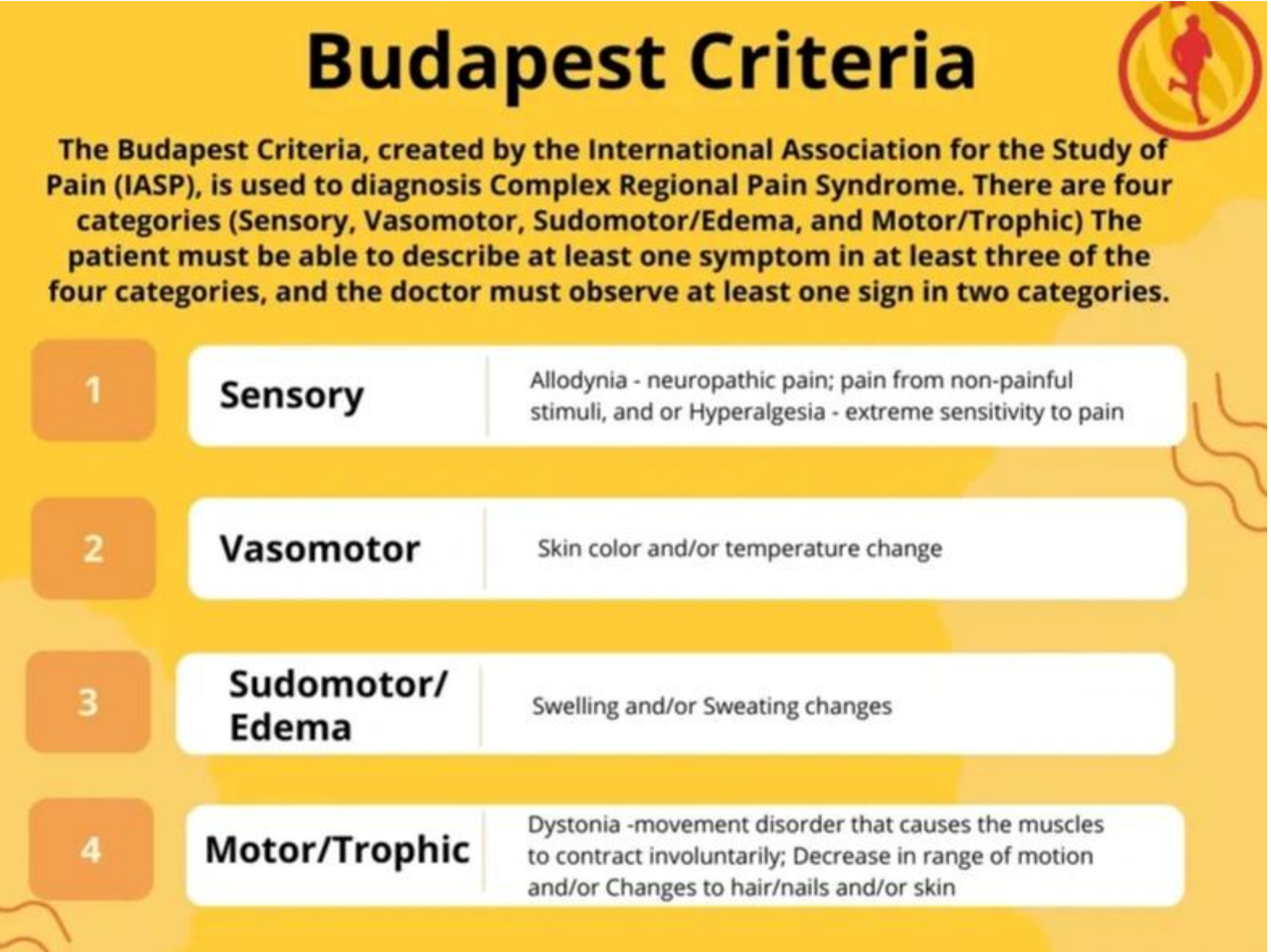


Figure 1: Budaest criteria (Image obtained from fighttheflame.org.

Discussion

- CRPS type 2 - developed in a patient who sustained a nerve injury related to intra - operative positioning.
- Almost 81% of lithotomy related injuries result in damage to the common peroneal nerve
- Mechanism - excessive stretching of the sciatic nerve caused by flexion of the hip during positioning.
- Pathophysiology of CRPS - multiple theories exist:
 - Inflammatory process leading to central sensitization and eventually autonomic features
- Treatment modalities include a broad range of therapies. Physical therapy remains the cornerstone of treatment. Psychological treatment with CBT
Pharmaceutical options - SNRIs, TCAs, and gabapentinoids
Refractory cases - selective nerve block or PNS/SCS

References

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