

Evaluation of a training:

'Disability assessment in patients without objective findings'

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Disclosure slide

- Insurance Physician,
Dutch Social Security Office.
- Teacher:
Disability Assessment Structured Interview' (DASI)
- No COI

Dutch system

- Employer pays the first 2 years of sick leave
- After two years: disability benefit?

Disability benefit

- Insurance Physician: assesses functional limitations
- Occupational expert: how much can the patient earn?
- A construction worker (3000 euro) with Bechterew is theoretically able to work as receptionist (2000 euro). Disability benefit: 33%

Functional limitations

- Mental (concentrating, conflict handling etc)
- Physical (walking, lifting etc)
- Limitation in hours a day?

MUPS

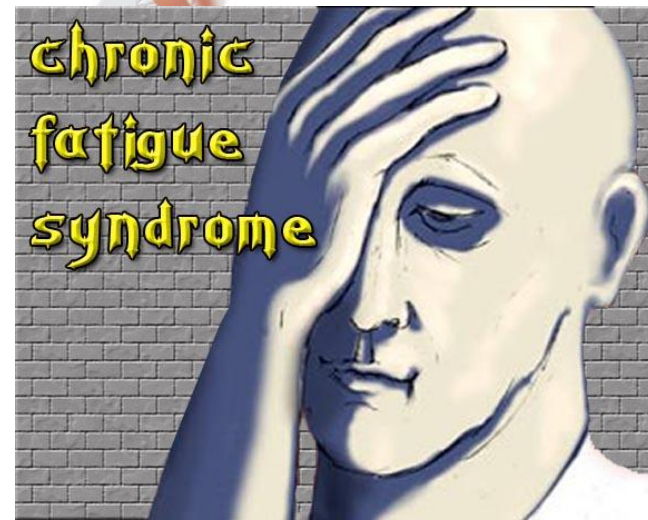
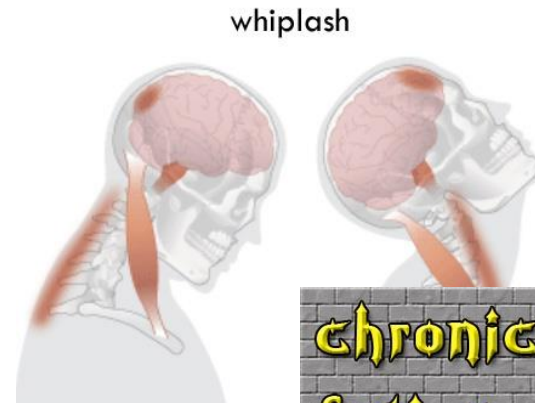
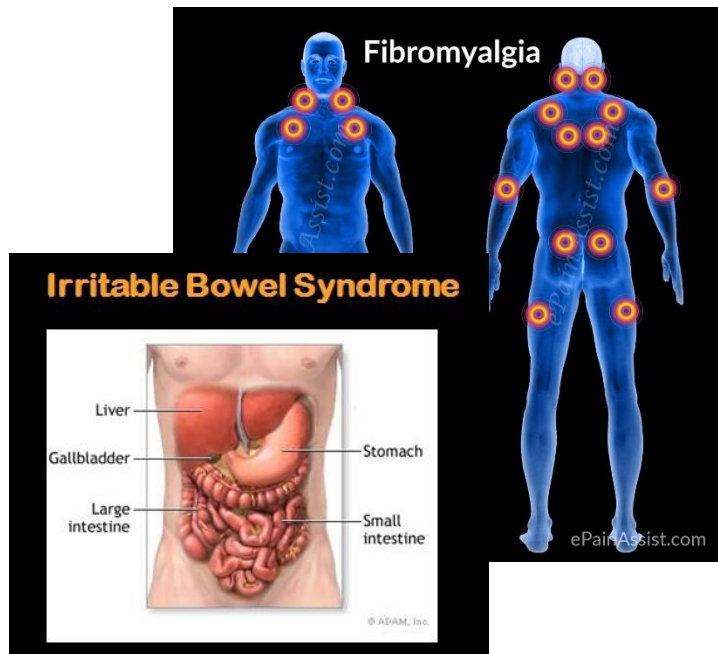
Medically Unexplained Physical Symptoms.

No objective findings



MUPS

Medically Unexplained Physical Symptoms



Male 55 yo

- Stent after myocardial infarction a year ago.
- Exercise test: 170 W (108%).
Cardiologist: no restrictions.
- Very tired, physical effort not possible
- In bed for 2 hours every afternoon
- Can not work



Problem

Disability assessment in patients without objective findings.

Inter-doctor variation.



One day training

- In small groups of physicians (12 max)
- Discussing the difficulties in assessing MUPS
- Discussion based on case report (wr, vid, own)
- Presentation of research
- Instruments (interview, guidelines, etc)

Goals of training

- Recognize MUPS
- Gain knowledge on legislation and guidelines
- Which information can be collected?
- Which instruments can help?
- Reflect on own position on this issue

Evaluation of training

- What is usefull?
- 52 physicians in 5 groups (responns 90%)
- Method: questionnaire with
 - 12 statements (ten-point scale)
 - 6 open ended questions

Results

The training was	Mean	Min	Max
Usefull	8.5	7	10
Relevant for work	8.4	7	10
Practice oriented	8.3	7	10
Fun to do	8.3	6	10
I have more tools	7.5	6	9
Goals of training are met	8.0	6	9
I can recommend the training	8.2	6	10

What is useful?

- Discussion with colleagues
- Reflection on own position
- I have more insight and knoweldge

Useful lessons

- More tools on the subject
- Knowledge of bandwidth between colleagues
- Knowledge of legislation and guidelines
- Importance of argumentation
- Reflection on different points of view

Tools for the assessment

- Always physical exam if physical complaints
- Anamnesis without judgement
- Ask for the arguments of the patient
- Assess internal and external consistency
- Use legislation as a guidance



**Take home message*

Doctors think a one-day training in assessing patients without objective findings is useful.

They say they get more tools and knowledge and appreciate reflecting on the subject.