CHRONIC SYMPTOM RELIEF

INNOVATIVE MEDICAL ASSOCIATES

What Causes Chronic Pain Syndrome?

Doctors don't know exactly what causes CPS. It often starts with an injury or painful condition such as:

Arthritis
Back Pain
Headaches
Muscle Strains
Repetitive Stress Injuries
Fibromyalgia
Nerve Damage
Lyme Disease
Broken Bones
Cancer
Acid Reflux & Ulcers

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)
Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)
Endometriosis
Surgery

CPS affects your physical health, your emotions, and even your social life over time.

Source: WebMD

2.5 million Americans estimated to have CFS

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome is not just being tired. CFS means a reduced ability to do usual activities for six months or more.

Symptoms often include one or more:

Problems sleeping Headaches Feeling Dizzy

Severe tiredness after activity
Trouble falling/staying asleep
Trouble concentrating and multi-tasking

Problems with thinking and memory Symptoms worsen if standing/sitting

1 in 4 people with the condition have severe symptoms.

There is no known cause.
Underlying conditions are often present:

Immune System Abnormalities
Low Cell Energy Production
Brain Wave Abnormalities
Blood Pressure Issues
Infections
Underlying Illness

Source: WebMD

The Anecdote for Chronic Disorders

"I had these intense random symptoms from head to toe. But every specialist that I saw, the answer was always the same. Everything is fine, nothing is wrong with you."

-LISA

Lisa's story is an all too common one.

She felt like the doctors were letting her down. Like so many of my patients, Lisa had access to a great medical system, yet no one was helping her enough to feel better.

As a professional marketing consultant and mother of four young children including pre-adolescent triplets, Lisa was living a robust life. In 2013, Lisa thought she had a sinus infection, so she visited her primary care physician and completed a course of antibiotics, but her symptoms got worse instead of better. She returned to her primary doctor with severe jaw pain and back aches. Since these symptoms can often be silent signs of a heart attack in women, Lisa's physician sent her to the emergency room for evaluation. Her heart was fine. During that visit, she was also tested for Lyme Disease. That test came back negative, so her search for answers continued.

At this point, Lisa had now received three negative tests for Lyme Disease. But she followed her gut instinct and was determined to confirm her suspicion that this was indeed the problem. Lisa found a specialist located hours from her home and spent hundreds in out-of-pocket expenses to get answers. This specialist did a test that proved Lisa had antibodies in her blood that could only be present if you have Lyme Disease.

This physician prescribed several rounds of antibiotics to reduce the bacteria associated with Lyme in Lisa's body along with a regimen of oral vitamins and supplements. Although she felt somewhat better, Lisa was still suffering. After a year of copious amounts of pharmaceutical medications, her liver enzymes were extremely elevated. These medications, although helpful in treating the disease, were now doing her body more harm than good. This can often be the case for many patients.

I do not underestimate our need for pharmaceuticals. When a patient needs an antibiotic, thank God we have them so they can help. Over the years we have eradicated so many bacterial infections with the use of antibiotics. If a patient has something like MRSA, they are going to need them. The medications in and of themselves are good, but there is a risk versus reward to every health or

science equation that must be weighed.

The adverse effects often associated with antibiotics may be tempered with vitamin C, along with some other key nutrients. But vitamins taken orally are merely a drop in the ocean. When taken intravenously; it's a wave of relief. We may even discover that the need for antibiotic or pharmaceutical intervention is lessened while we are utilizing these nutrients to support the body throughout their use.

A woman in a health food store referred Lisa to me. I knew when I met her how sick she was at that time. We knew that Lyme Disease was the underlying diagnosis, but no one looked beyond that to see if there were side effects or conditions contributing to her overall health. We would have attacked this problem very differently from the start. I would have put her on IV antibiotics vs oral derivatives to bypass the liver and we could have further supported her body through it all with nutraceuticals. I had such empathy for Lisa for all she had been through.

By now, her circadian rhythm was off balance. She was finding it difficult to do what she needed to do both professionally and personally.

After reviewing her history and some additional testing, I concluded that Lisa's underlying problem was not merely an autoimmune issue or side effects from conventional medications but related more so to the history of the Lyme. Although the disease had technically been treated, Lisa's Lyme proteins were still causing her to have symptoms. There is a scientific name for this. It's called PTLDS or Post-Treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome.

I had a hard time deciding which symptom to attack first. I got a good handle on what she was "feeling" such as, fatigue, and pain. Looking at her home life with young children, my first challenge was to increase her energy level as soon as possible. I was not so worried about her test results, but instead would focus on her as a person. I put her on an intensive course of treatment including vitamin C and amino acids and she felt significantly better even after only one

"After my first IV drip, I walked outside and it was really strange. Everything seemed brighter, more vivid and I was blown away, like I had been lifted out of the brain fog that had plagued me for years."

treatment.

- LISA

Slowly over time, the energy started to come back. One by one, Lisa's chronic symptoms almost completely disappeared. I could not guarantee her that she would ever get back to 100%, but I assured her we would get as darn close to it as humanly possible.

Lisa has liver damage from all the years of pharmaceutical medications, and Lyme Disease may be present in her body for the rest of her life. Random things like the weather, barometric pressure, stress, and food sensitivities can affect Lisa. She knows that when this disease is triggered and she feels a wave of symptoms flare up, it is time to call me. I treat the symptoms and she feels better every time. After years of hydration therapy, flare ups no longer knock her down like they used to, and she bounces back more quickly. Lisa tells me she feels 95% or at least "better" daily.

It does not do a patient any good to simply be diagnosed or labelled. As health providers, we need to focus on treating their symptoms. We can effectuate change for the better by helping them to overcome the challenges associated with daily living because of a disease or condition.

Ultimately, "quality of life" is what matters most.

"Quality of life" is a very subjective term.

To me, it means we feel like we are living our lives and not just surviving another day. If someone can no longer do what they used to enjoy, they may begin to feel rather defeated. They may not all be able to do what they love as vigorously as they once did years ago, but it does not mean they should fail to enjoy a quality of life they have come to expect on a physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual level.

How well my patients have an ability to live a quality daily life is the evidence-based medicine I rely upon in my practice.

- Dr. Molly Fantasia

Find out more about how our Chronic Symptom Management Program may improve your Quality of Life

INNOVATIVE MEDICAL ASSOCIATES MARLTON, NJ

Schedule a free in-office consultation with Dr. Molly Fantasia.

856-489-0505

Innovative Medical Associates
is a cooperative of like-minded healthcare
providers working together within a
medically licensed establishment. We can do
anything that a primary care physician
practice can do, such as performing medical
evaluations as well as prescribing therapies,
medications, tests, and labs. The cooperative
then works together to create a unique
comprehensive care plan
for every single patient.

I specialize in the use of nutraceuticals, medicinally beneficial natural substances, which I refer to as "God's Ingredients." These vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients can greatly improve upon the traditional care that we, or other health practitioners, may provide for our patients.

Nutraceuticals are delivered via hydration therapy, which is considered the most precise and ideal delivery method for these nutrients to produce a desired outcome. This simply means using intravenous therapy to hydrate the body with nutrients. Taking nutrients orally can greatly reduce their efficacy since the body may not extract enough of the benefits that the cells need. Nutrients delivered directly to the bloodstream via hydration can better work to improve, alter, or prevent chronic symptoms, genetic dispositions, or root causes of disease.

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