

Module 7 – The nature, symptoms, and meaning of pain; Pain management
Chapter 11 & 12 Caltabiano, Sarafino, Byrne 2008

To be able to understand the nature, qualities, and dimensions of pain. (pg. 461)

Pain – the sensory and emotional experience of discomfort, usually associated with actual or threatened tissue damage or irritation

- Experience of pain is important because
 - No medical complaint is more important – more likely to seek treatment
 - Severe and prolonged pain can dominate lives
 - Has enormous social and economic effects on all societies
- 31% of consults with Australian GPs involve headaches
- 23% of Australian households have at least one migraine sufferer
- 15% of Australians suffer chronic back pain

Different qualities (sharp, dull). Deep within the body is felt as a dull or aching pain; damage by a brief noxious effect to the skin is 'sharp'.

Organic pain – discomfort mainly caused by tissue damage e.g. burns

Psychogenic pain – no tissue damage exists, fail to find an organic basis e.g. a schizophrenic 'feeling' the stings of being shot as part of a hallucination.

Mostly all pain experiences involve interplay of physiological and psychological factors.

Therefore the dimension of pain involving organic and psychogenic pain is viewed as a c