

Table 2. Signs and Symptoms of Neuropathic Pain Syndromes

DISORDER	PAIN SYMPTOMS	SIGNS
Painful diabetic neuropathy	Symmetrical numbness and burning or stabbing pain in lower extremities, allodynia may occur	Sensory loss in lower extremities
Phantom limb pain	Variable: Aching, cramping, burning, squeezing, or tearing sensation	May have peri-incisional sensory loss
Trigeminal neuralgia	Paroxysmal, short bursts of sharp, electric like pain, in nerve distribution	Tearing or red eye may be present
HIV-related neuropathy	Symmetrical pain and paresthesias, most prominent in toes and feet	Sensory loss in areas of greatest pain symptoms
Postherpetic neuralgia	Allodynia, shooting, lancinating pain	Sensory changes in the involved dermatome
Post-stroke pain	Same side as weakness, throbbing, shooting pain, allodynia	Loss of hot and cold differentiation
Sciatica (neurogenic back pain)	Constant or intermittent, burning or aching, shooting or electric shock-like pain, may follow dermatome; leg pain > back pain	Possible muscle atrophy in area of pain, possible reflex changes
Complex regional pain type I (RSD)	Burning persistent pain, allodynia, associated with immobilization or disuse	Early: Edema, warmth, local sweating Late: Above alternates with cold; pale, cyanosis, eventually atrophic changes
Complex regional pain type II (causalgia)	Burning persistent pain, allodynia, associated with peripheral nerve injury	Early: Edema, warmth, local sweating Late: Above alternates with cold, pale, cyanosis, eventually atrophic changes

Key: ROM = range of motion; RSD = reflex sympathetic dystrophy.