

8b. Clinical indicators of Neuropathic Pain

If pain distribution is neuroanatomically plausible and history suggests relevant lesion or disease, neuropathic pain is possible. Neuropathic pain develops as a result of damage to, or dysfunction of, the system that normally signals pain.

Common causes of neuropathic pain include:

- painful diabetic neuropathy
- post-herpetic neuralgia
- trigeminal neuralgia
- radicular pain
- pain after surgery
- neuropathic cancer pain, ie chemotherapy-induced neuropathy and neuropathy secondary to tumour infiltration
- HIV neuropathy

The patient may experience:

- altered pain sensation
- areas of numbness or burning
- continuous or intermittent evoked or spontaneous pain