

Donovan SCI Pain Classification System:

Adapted from Donovan WH et al. Neurophysiological approaches to chronic pain following spinal cord injury, Paraplegia, 20:135-146, 1982; Table 1. Used with permission from Nature Publishing Group.

The table below presents the descriptors or parameters for 5 different patients with each type of pain (examples for each category shown). **The filled in boxes below are examples specific to these patients only; they do not represent the range of factors that could account for the categories.**

Pain Type	Time of Onset Post Injury	Character	Duration	Aggravating factors	Diminishing factors	Possible causative factors
Segmental nerve Cauda Equina	Days to weeks	Burning Stabbing	Seconds	Rest	Activity	Slow fibre conduction from skin
Spinal Cord	Weeks to months	Tingling Numbness	Constant	Activity	Rest	All fibre conduction within cord
Visceral	Weeks to months	Burning	Constant	Variable	Variable	Slow fibre conduction from viscera
Mechanical	Weeks to months	Dull Aching	Variable	Activity	Rest	Slow fibre conduction from muscles or ligaments
Psychic	Variable	Variable	Variable	Variable	Variable	Preoccupation with unpleasant environmental stimuli

Donovan SCI Pain Classification System Worksheet:

Patient name: _____

Date: _____

Pain Type	Time of Onset Post Injury	Character	Duration	Aggravating factors	Diminishing factors	Possible causative factors
Segmental nerve Cauda Equina						
Spinal Cord						
Visceral						
Mechanical						
Psychic						