

Ring on Grahek on Pain

Philosophy 165: Epistemology

Orange Coast College

The reasons to think that a pain asymbolic patient is still having a pain sensation even though it does not distress the person are:

1. Nociceptors are firing and only fire when an obnoxious stimulus of the appropriate type is used.
2. Pain levels and thresholds are observed by pain asymbolic patients and the person has the ability to distinguish non-noxious stimulation from noxious stimulation.
3. The patient usually has had previous experience as a "normal" person with pain experiences.
4. Because of prior experience with regular pain situations that patient is familiar with and appropriately uses the concepts and language of pain talk.
5. The pain asymbolic has the same type of neurology as a normal person until one reaches the brain where the brain damage is causing the person to be a pain asymbolic.