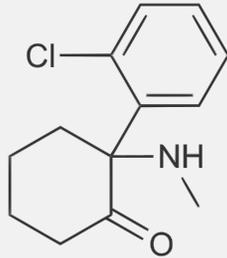


THE RIGHT TREATMENT

New research and clinical practices reveal Ketamine infusions as a viable means for treating painful flares of CRPS.

Long used in emergency departments across the country, this analgesic significantly decreases CRPS symptoms.

To access Ketamine research and treatment guidelines, please visit our website.



Other treatments may include medications, interventional therapies, nerve blocks, warm-water therapy, physical therapy, and psychological support.

WORKING FOR A CURE

Since the Federal Drug Administration classified CRPS as a rare disease, RSDSA has been committed to finding a cure.

In 2014, RSDSA established the International Research Consortium, uniting forty-seven CRPS clinics and specialists worldwide to develop better treatments for the disease and to work toward a cure.



RSDSA is committed to assisting those who suffer from CRPS as well as the people who support them.

RSDSA offers emotional, financial, and medical support to people suffering with CRPS. Please visit our website if you are in need.

If you think you or someone you know has CRPS/RSD, please visit your physician and provide him or her with educational information about the disease. Much more may be accessed on our website. You may also contact our organization.

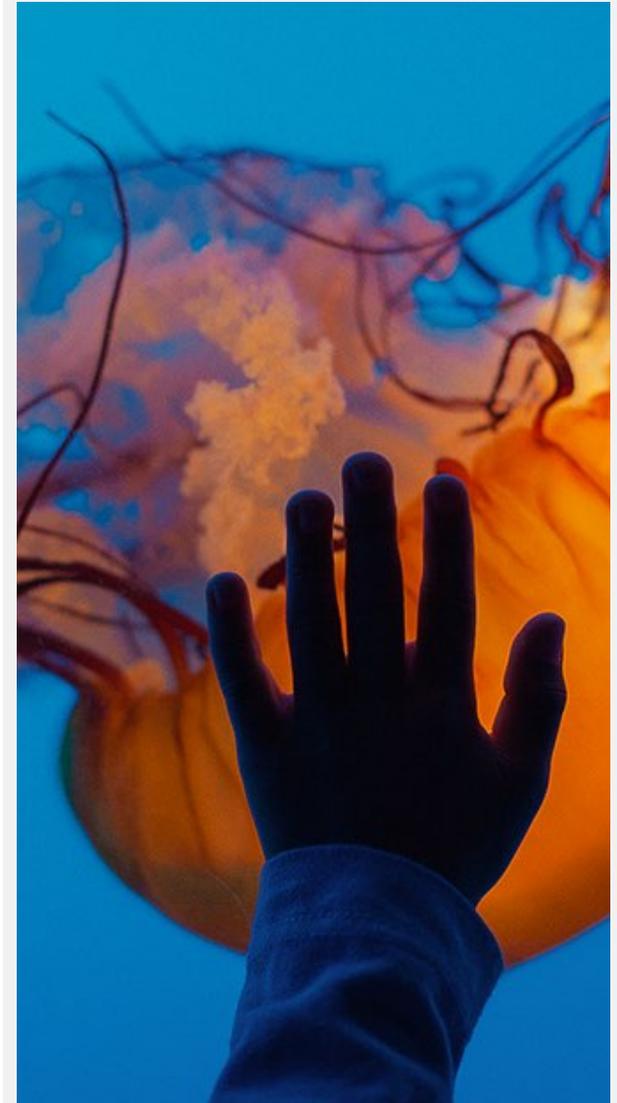
WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU
—YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

W W W . R S D S . O R G

8 7 7 . 6 6 2 . 7 7 3 7

COMPLEX REGIONAL PAIN SYNDROME

LIVING WITH CHRONIC PAIN MORE
SEVERE THAN A CONSTANT
JELLYFISH STING



HOW CRPS CHANGED A CHILD'S LIFE

Once a successful swimmer and a student council member, fourteen-year-old Natalia is now trapped in her body.

After a mild wrist sprain, Natalia's fingers swelled into blood-red sausages. The pain prevented her from even holding a pencil.

Exactly a week after her thirteenth birthday, a neurologist finally diagnosed her with CRPS after many ER visits. In the following months, she was hospitalized more than a dozen times.

Just as she began to show improvement, a car collided with her school bus, and her CRPS spread. Pain covered every inch of her body; Natalia has not walked since.

Her parents have been unable to hold her hand or hug her for over a year.

Natalia's story is not unique. In the U.S. alone, nearly 200,000 people suffer from CRPS, the most painful medical disorder. Like Natalia, these people need help.

To receive help, they must be heard.

THE FACTS

WHAT IS CRPS/RSD?

CRPS/RSD is a rare neurological disorder that causes severe inflammation in the sympathetic nervous system.

WHAT CAUSES IT?

It occurs after a trauma, such as a musculoskeletal or nerve injury, surgery, or broken bone.

The trauma causes the sympathetic nervous system and the immune system to malfunction—the nerves throughout the body misfire, overwhelming the brain with pain signals.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

CRPS is devastating. It causes severe pain, swelling, and sensitivity. Many people are unable to walk, work, or wear clothes.

WHO CAN DEVELOP CRPS/RSD?

Anyone may have CRPS, regardless of race, age, or gender. However, research shows that it is most common in women.

THE DIAGNOSIS

There is no single diagnostic test for CRPS. Only a careful exam can produce the proper diagnosis. Below are the most common symptoms.

COMMON SYMPTOMS:

- Pain described as deep, aching, burning, or stinging
- A prior trauma (fracture, sprain, surgery, etc.)
- Abnormal swelling
- Excessive sweating in the affected area
- Changes in skin color
- Noticeably altered skin temperature (increased or decreased) in the affected limb
- Weakness of affected limb
- Limited range of motion
- Paralysis or dystonia (muscle contractions resulting in abnormal positions)
- Allodynia (pain from stimuli that is not normally painful—the touch of fabric or the wind blowing)
- Hyperalgesia (excessive sensitivity to pain)

These symptoms are not exhaustive, and some cases show many but not all of these symptoms.
