

Living with Chronic Pain

On a bench in front of pain clinic. Alice and Betty (or Alan and Bob).

A: I'm in pain all day long, and my knees they ache so I can't get out of bed in the morning.

B: I'm in pain day AND night. My head throbs so I can't sleep and I get terrible leg cramps.

A: I hurt more than you.

B: No, I hurt more than you.

A: I hurt until I scream out loud sometimes.

B: I hurt until I almost pass out.

A: I take 10 drugs a day, even though it makes me nervous.

B: I take 20 drugs a day - I feel like an addict.

A: OK, OK, you win - you miserable goony creep. You're worse off than me and you always will be.

B: OK, I win. I win? (grimaces)

A: The American Pain Society says nearly 60 million people in the U.S. suffer from chronic pain.

B: I know.

A: Chronic pain sufferers are: misunderstood,
misdiagnosed and mistreated.

B: I know.

A: Some doctors think chronic pain sufferers are faking.

B: I know.

A: Our families think we're faking.

B: I know.

A: There are no easy answers.

B: I KNOW!!! (shouting)

A: Do you think you know everything. You ninnyhammer.

B: No! But I do know what you know.

A: What?

B: This pain clinic can help.

A: Yeah.

B: Talking to people who understand can help.

A: Yeah.

B: Sometimes physical therapy and massage or pool
therapy can help.

A: Yeah.

B: Finding the right medicine can help or sometimes there are simple procedures that can help.

A: Yeah.

B: Say yeah once more and I'll.....

A: Yeah. Sometimes pain can make you get irrationally angry.

B: (Punches A in the snoot - gently)

A: Ow!!

B: That'll give you something to moan about.

A: OK, OK, I'm never coming here again.

B: Well, why do you come anyway.

A: You know.

B: No, why?

A: You know.

B: No, I don't know why - you cross-eyed maniac.

A: I come to see you. I like you!

B: Well, see you next week then.

A: (walking away) Not if I see you first.

B: Have to get in the last word, don't you?

A: Yeah I do.

B: Not this time.

A: (fading away) Yeah. I do.

Etc.