

Estimation

A rough calculation of the value, number, quantity, or extent of something.

Estimation of **pain** may have a considerable **impact** on the level of **care** that patient receives. Many studies have shown that contextual factors may influence an **observer's** pain estimation.

Khatibi and, Mazidi investigated the effect of an **observer's** impression of a person in pain and justification of his/her pain on the observer's pain estimation, tendency to help and perceived **empathy**.

Thirty healthy individuals (half females) read scenarios aimed to manipulate the reader's impression of characters who ultimately were fired from their work (four positive characters and four negative; half females). Then they observed 1-s videos of four levels of pain expression (neutral, mild, moderate, strong) in those characters during an **examination**. Subsequently, they rated pain estimation, tendency to help and perceived empathy. Afterward, they rated their likability of characters and how just they find the end of story.

People rated pain in positive characters higher than the pain in negative characters. They also expressed more tendency to help and a higher level of perceived empathy toward positive characters than negative characters. For the highest level of pain in positive characters, perceived injustice toward that person was the best predictor of the observer's pain estimation, tendency to help and perceived empathy. For negative characters, dislikeability was the best predictor of tendency to help and perceived empathy. Justification of their pain was a predictor of pain estimation and tendency to help.

Observers used different information to evaluate pain in positive and negative individuals ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Khatibi A, Mazidi M. Observers' Impression of the Person in Pain Influences Their Pain Estimation and Tendency to Help. Eur J Pain. 2019 Jan 8. doi: 10.1002/ejp.1361. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30620147.

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