

From the Book:

Chronic Pain: Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Prevention and Management

CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida

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RSD Misdiagnosed As		
Migraine	Thoracic outlet syndrome ^a	Shoulder-hand syndrome
Bursitis of shoulder or hip	Myofascial injury	Ligamentous injury
Frozen shoulder	Raynaud's phenomenon	Thalamic pain
Phantom pain	Rotator cuff injury	Aseptic necrosis of hip
Migratory osteolysis	Transient regional osteoporosis	TMJ disease ^b

^a Nine patients had been previously diagnosed and surgically treated as "thoracic outlet syndrome". The source of pain was cervical nerve root contusion in 4, cervical spondylosis in 2, RSD of disuse in 2, and ephaptic RSD of forearm in 1. Thermography showed RSD changes in all 9 patients. By virtue of muscle spasm involving deltoid, pectoralis, and scalenus muscles, RSD can clinically mimic thoracic outlet syndrome.

^b RSD causes TMJ disease and vice versa. The two usually coexist. Injections or operation for TMJ disease due to RSD aggravates the condition.