

## **ABSTRACT**

**Title:** The enigma of rotator cuff tears and the case for uncertainty

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**Learning objectives:** To understand current uncertainty around the diagnosis and management of rotator cuff tears.

**Summary:** Rotator cuff tears remain an enigma; why are some 'painful' and others not? Furthermore, depending on the mechanism of onset (traumatic or non-traumatic) different treatment pathways are proposed. In this talk I will discuss these issues, highlight the case for uncertainty in relation to this diagnosis and current treatment pathways and suggest opportunities to challenge current thinking.

**Implications/Conclusions:** There are many unanswered questions with regard to rotator cuff tears. Further research is needed, and is currently underway, to address the current uncertainties.

**Key words:** rotator cuff tear; surgery; physiotherapy

**References or articles we can put on our website to support your presentation:**

Littlewood et al (2018). The enigma of rotator cuff tears and the case for uncertainty.

<https://bjsm.bmj.com/content/52/19/1222>