Method

Participants

- Participants (n=304) were drawn from three samples including community members and undergraduates:
  1. CMP with compensation (COMP): n=78; 62% women,
  2. CMP with no compensation (NON-COMP): n=70; 36% women
  3. Controls (CONTROL): n=156; 79% women

- The COMP group was older (M=40.6; SD=9.3) than both the NON-COMP group (M=32.5; SD=12.7) and the CONTROL group (M=29.0; SD=10.2), F(2, 301) = 31.0, p<.01.

Measures

- Anxiety Sensitivity Index-3 (ASI-3; Taylor et al., 2007)
- Pain Anxiety Symptoms Scale – 20 (PASS-20; McCracken & Dhirnga, 2002)
- Illness/Injury Sensitivity Index (ISI-R; Carleton, Park, & Asmundson, 2006)
- Centre Epidemiologic Studies Depression scale (CES-D; Radloff, 1977)
- The visual analogue scale (VAS) on the McGill Pain Questionnaire-short form (SF-MPQ; Melzack, 1987).

Procedure

- Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to assess for differences across the groups on all dependent variables. Scheffe post-hoc analyses were performed to determine specific between-group differences.

Results

- Pearson product correlations were conducted to assess relationships between age and all dependent variables. Only pain severity scores on the VAS shared a significant positive relationship with age, R=.12, p<.05.

- Statistically significant differences were found in pain severity (VAS) while controlling for age, F(3, 301) = 28.0, p<.001, η²=.22.

- The COMP group and the NON-COMP group reported significantly more pain than the CONTROL group; no differences in pain severity were found between the COMP and NON-COMP groups.

- Significant between-group differences were found for the PASS-20 escape-avoidance, F(2, 301) = 10.1, p<.001, η²=.06, and fear subscales, F(2, 301) = 3.88, p<.05, n²=.03, with the COMP group reporting higher scores than both other groups (Table 1).

- Significant between-groups differences were also found for the CES-D, F(2, 301) = 7.12, p<.01, η²=.05, with the NONCOMP group reporting higher depression scores than the CONTROL group, Mₓ=6.07, SE=1.61, p<.01, and approaching (p=.08) statistically significantly higher depression scores than the COMP group (Table 1).

- Significant between-group differences were also found for the ISI-R fear of illness subscale, F(2, 301) = 4.76, p<.01, η²=.05, as well as the fear of injury subscale, F(2, 301) = 7.39, p<.01, η²=.05, with the NON-COMP group reporting higher scores than the COMP group, and the COMP group reporting higher scores than the CONTROL group (Table 1).

Discussion

- The current data suggest potentially important differences on several constructs of interest between people with CMP who are and who are not receiving compensation.

- Past research has demonstrated a relationship between fear of illness-injury and escape-avoidance beliefs. Illness-injury sensitivity has also been suggested as a predictor of health protective behaviour such as medical help-seeking and escape-avoidance behaviour.

- The current results contrast previous findings because individuals who engage in escape/avoidance behaviour were expected to be more likely to express greater fears of illness and injury than individuals who engage in less escape-avoidance behaviour.

- Participants in the COMP group reported higher escape-avoidance behaviour and expressed more fear of injury than participants in the NON-COMP group; however, those in the NON-COMP group reported more fear of illness than participants in the COMP group.

- Non-compensated individuals may find the prospect of illness more globally threatening (e.g., greater recovery uncertainty) than injury. Additional research is required to delineate the implications of illness and injury fears in the contexts of differing levels of compensation.

- Future studies should prospectively explore the ISI-R subscales vis-à-vis fear-avoidance model related constructs (e.g., escape-avoidance behaviour, pain-catastrophizing).

Table 1: Scheffe post hoc comparisons on statistically significant variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent Variable</th>
<th>(I) Group</th>
<th>(J) Group</th>
<th>Mean Diff (I-J)</th>
<th>Std. Error</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CES-D Total</td>
<td>COMP</td>
<td>NON-COMP</td>
<td>4.15</td>
<td>1.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASS-escape</td>
<td>COMP</td>
<td>NON-COMP</td>
<td>3.12**</td>
<td>.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-pass-fear</td>
<td>COMP</td>
<td>NON-COMP</td>
<td>2.21*</td>
<td>.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISIR-illness</td>
<td>COMP</td>
<td>NON-COMP</td>
<td>2.05**</td>
<td>.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISIR-illness</td>
<td>COMP</td>
<td>CONTROL</td>
<td>-2.52*</td>
<td>.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTROL</td>
<td>-91</td>
<td>-96</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: *p < .05, **p < .01