



## ***" THIS PHANTOM PAIN IS DRIVING ME NUTS!"***

**“Yeah...we know all about that...but there are still a lot of people with a lot of ideas about what causes this pain in the brain.**

The phantom limb pain many amputees experience may be linked to residual representations of that limb in the brain.

About 80% of amputees experience phantom pain. For many, the pain is debilitating, interfering with their day-to-day lives.

The causes of phantom pain have long baffled scientists, and treatments are limited.

The brain is known to have a sensory “map” of different body parts and phantom pain results when the part of the map that represented the former limb is taken over by body parts like the face and the lips.

Using MRI imaging, which measures blood flow due to brain activity, brains of one armed, two armed and people born with one hand were scanned. They were told to move their hands, arms or feet.

The scans showed that amputees with phantom pain had the same brain activity as individuals with both hands. This was a huge surprise.



**The study confirms the idea that we can treat phantom limb pain by treating that “Brain Map”! Let’s wait and see.**