
Author List:
Presenting Author: Zahra Tashakkori
Additional Author: Debra J. Barksdale

Presenting Author: Zahra Tashakkori
Address: Carrington Hall
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7460
United States
Ph: 910-391-2855
Fax:
Email: ztashakk@email.unc.edu
Institution: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Additional Author: Debra J Barksdale
Address: School of Nursing
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599
United States
Ph: 919-843-2479
Fax: 919-843-9969
Email: djbarksdale@unc.edu
Institution: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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Abstract:
Introduction: Although fibromyalgia (FM) is a controversial condition, there has been growing interest in its pathophysiologic mechanisms over the last 10 years. FM is a debilitating disorder characterized by chronic widespread muscle, tendon and ligament pain, affecting more than 10 million Americans. FM is also associated with multiple comorbidities and high economic costs. The purpose of this poster is to present current theories and evidence on the role of the neuroendocrine system in the pathophysiology of FM. Research to enhance our understanding of the pathophysiology of FM will have a significant impact on the development of more effective care, treatment, and interventions for patients with FM, and ultimately reduce health care cost.

Method(s): We reviewed theoretical and research literature on the pathophysiologic mechanisms of FM that was published between 1999 and 2009.
Results: Central sensitization (temporal summation, windup) and the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis seem to be major factors in the pathogenesis of FM. Further, abnormalities of adrenal hormones such as cortisol may play a role in the development of FM.

Discussion & Conclusions: Despite the exponential growth in research on pathophysiology of FM in support of temporal summation and HPA axis activation, findings are inconclusive and often speculative. Therefore, more research is needed to increase our knowledge of FM so that effective interventions can be developed to decrease the pain and suffering associated with this condition.

Abstract History:
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

Financial Disclosure:
No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation.

FDA Disclosure:
I will not be describing any pharmaceutical and/or medical device.

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Submitted by:
ztashakk@email.unc.edu