

CNS SPECTRUMS®

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NEUROPSYCHIATRIC MEDICINE

**ADVANCES IN THE DIAGNOSIS, PATHOGENESIS,
AND MANAGEMENT OF FIBROMYALGIA SYNDROME**

CME PSYCHCAST™

SOCIAL INFLUENCES ON THE CONCEPT OF FIBROMYALGIA

AUTHOR

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CME .5

ABSTRACT

Despite relevant evidence of physical illness promoting fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS), some authors claim that it is a psychological illness, or due to "psychological amplification." Good evidence for such views is lacking. Selection processes lead to increased rates of psychological illness in general practice and in specialist practice. The physical distress of FMS can increase both anxiety and depression. Questionable research supported by the insurance industry has tended to provide negative and disparaging views of pain. Current imaging studies support the view that central effects connected with FMS relate to the processing of noxious stimulation more than affective disorder.



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Faculty Affiliation and Disclosures

Dr. Merskey is emeritus professor of psychiatry at University of Western Ontario in Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Merskey is a consultant to personal injury plaintiffs and their lawyers.

Peer Reviewer

Eric Hollander, MD, reports no affiliation with or financial interest in any organization that may pose a conflict of interest.

This activity has been peer reviewed and approved by Eric Hollander, MD, Professor of Psychiatry and Chair at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Review Date: February 15, 2008.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this activity, the participant should be able to:

- Recognize some of the sources of confusion over the nature of fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS).
- Review established information regarding the diagnosis and etiology of FMS.

Needs Assessment

Practitioners in internal medicine, psychiatry, and other medical disciplines frequently express uncertainty about the relationship between psychological illness and fibromyalgia. Some experts consider fibromyalgia to be a psychological disorder while others claim that it is a physical one. This article presents established information on the diagnosis and etiology of fibromyalgia together with information on some of the sources of confusion in regard to claims for compensation.

Target Audience

This activity is designed to meet the educational needs of psychiatrists.

Accreditation Statement

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essentials and Standards of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint sponsorship of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and MBL Communications, Inc. The Mount Sinai School of Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.



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Credit Designation

The Mount Sinai School of Medicine designates this educational activity for a maximum of 0.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

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The estimated time to complete this activity is .5 hour.

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SOCIAL INFLUENCES ON THE CONCEPT OF FIBROMYALGIA

CME QUESTIONS

- 1. In fibromyalgia, which of the following diagnoses is not associated with the origin of the illness?**
 - A. Musculoskeletal or other connective tissue disorder
 - B. Whiplash
 - C. Hypothyroidism
 - D. Depression
- 2. In fibromyalgia, among patients seen in clinics, what is usually the proportion with commonly identified psychological illness?**
 - A. <10%
 - B. 11% to 30%
 - C. 30% to 70%
 - D. >70%
- 3. In patients with anxiety or depression attending for psychiatric assistance, what is the proportion who show sufficient tender points to support a diagnosis of fibromyalgia?**
 - A. <10%
 - B. 10% to 25%
 - C. 25% to 50%
 - D. >50%
- 4. Which of the following statements is not true?**
 - A. Information from the insurance industry has had some influence on physicians' perspectives of fibromyalgia syndrome
 - B. Hospital and practice studies offer reliable samples of the population due to the similarity in factors that lead patients to select physicians
 - C. Research evidence strongly supports a relationship between adult fibromyalgia and childhood sexual abuse
 - D. Severe or chronic pain may lead to psychological illness
- 5. Post-traumatic fibromyalgia:**
 - A. Should not be diagnosed in a medical situation where compensation is available
 - B. Is relatively uncommon after whiplash
 - C. Is a hateful diagnosis like whiplash
 - D. Should be diagnosed if present without respect to financial consequences
- 6. An "unrestricted grant" for research:**
 - A. Has no restrictions on how it can be spent within its scientific field
 - B. Is offered to all comers in competition
 - C. Is not open to changes required by the sponsor
 - D. Is restricted to a defined topic



REGISTRATION

MAY 2008 CME QUIZ

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ANSWER FORM

CME PsychCast™ – Social Influences on the Concept of Fibromyalgia

TERMINATION DATE: May 31, 2010

To receive credit, you should score 70% or better (participants will receive certification for their records in approximately 4–6 weeks). Early submission of this posttest is encouraged. Please submit this test by May 1, 2010, to be eligible for credit. If you have any questions about this, or any of our other CME materials, please e-mail CME@mblcommunications.com.

Please circle your answers

1. A B C D 2. A B C D 3. A B C D 4. A B C D 5. A B C D 6. A B C D

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