

N Galeotti et al. Journal of Rheumatology. October (2001) Vol. 28 #10 p 2298.

The search for an organic explanation for Fibromyalgia continues. This study examines the role of specific genetic predisposition, related to the effective control of signaling between cells. Reduced control could in part explain why cases become locked into pain states with no organic cause.

Lymphocytes were extracted from blood samples from 17 healthy normal controls, 19 cases of severe FM, and 12 cases with diagnosable chronic pain states e.g. arthritis or carpal tunnel syndrome. Analysis was blinded.

Proteins known as Gi proteins were found to be hypofunctional (i.e. their effect was under-active) in FM but not in the other two groups.



Comment

It seems reasonable that the under activity found here is genetically determined, but this could not be determined with confidence from this work. Genetic analysis would be required.

The finding does not rule out the potential role of life events in the cause of chronic pain states with no apparent organic cause.