

*AW Al-Allaf et al. Rheumatology. October (2001) Vol.40 #10 p 1097.*

Diffuse RSI and Fibromyalgia (FM) (regional) have been linked in a high profile case. The two share many common features but are, by current definition, distinct.

This is a practical, but very small study of flare response among people diagnosed with FM. Flare response is in theory an indicator of nerve behaviour. Any abnormality may indicate changes in nerve function as a result of FM or differences in nerve behavior which might be involved in the pathogenesis of FM.

15 FM cases 15 age and sex matched healthy normal controls took part.

Background variables:

Visual Analogue Scale, number of Tender Points, Health Assessment Qr., Hospital anxiety and Depression, sleep disturbance history, blood pressures.

Acclimatization to 21 °C room.

Dermal blood flow using laser Doppler flowmetry.

Acetylcholine iontophoresis was the flare response stimulant.

FM cases were in pain at the time, anxious, depressed and had poor quality of life.

No differences were found in either; cutaneous vascular response or, flare response.

#### Comment

At face value, could be taken to show that there are no differences between the nerves of cases and controls. This was a very small study.

Other studies have shown that flare response is altered by anxiety, there is no clear reason why this was not reproduced here.

