

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

Is there a genetic cause of fibromyalgia?

Four general categories of aetiology have been proposed:

- 1) sleep disturbance
- 2) muscular alterations
- 3) altered neurotransmission of pain
- 4) immunological factors.

Any or all of these could involve genetic predisposition.

Other research has begun to establish that low serotonin and high substance P are commonplace in FM cases. Current opinion is that these are responses as opposed to *ab initio* causes.



The current study focuses on Gi proteins, which it suggests are cell-signaling moderators.

Subjects included 17 healthy normal controls, 19 severe FM cases and 12 with diagnosable pain states e.g. CTS...

Blinded investigations, based on analysis of lymphocytes (from blood samples).

Gi proteins were found to be hypofunctional in FM but not in the other two groups. Reduced functionality without significantly reduced concentration is not acquired because of pain, if it were it would have been likewise in the 12 diagnosed pain states.

### **Comment**

A genetic predisposition to FM seems to be supported by this finding.

No information on trigger