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Current concepts in the pathophysiology of fibromyalgia: the potential role of oxidative stress and nitric oxide.

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Abstract

Fibromyalgia (FM) is a common chronic pain syndrome with an unknown etiology. Recent years added new information to our understanding of FM pathophysiology. Researches on genetics, biogenic amines, neurotransmitters, hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis hormones, **oxidative stress**, and mechanisms of pain modulation, central sensitization, and autonomic functions in FM revealed various abnormalities indicating that multiple factors and mechanisms are involved in the pathogenesis of FM. **Oxidative stress** and nitric oxide may play an important role in FM pathophysiology, however it is still not clear whether **oxidative stress** abnormalities documented in FM are the cause or the effect. This should encourage further researches evaluating the potential role of **oxidative stress** and nitric oxide in the pathophysiology of FM and the efficacy of antioxidant treatments (omega-3 and -6 fatty acids, vitamins and others) in double blind and placebo controlled trials. These future researches will enhance our understanding of the complex pathophysiology of this disorder.

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