

Project: Quality of life, cognitive performance, emotional regulation and psychophysiological processes in fibromyalgia

Cooperation partner: University of Jaén, Spain (G.A. Reyes del Paso, C.I. Montoro Aguilar, C.M. Galvez Sánchez)

Support: Ministry of Science and Innovation, Spain

Fibromyalgia is a chronic condition of widespread pain accompanied by symptoms like fatigue, sleep disturbance, depression, and concentration difficulties. The prevalence of fibromyalgia is estimated at 2–4 % in the general population, where women are more frequently affected than men. Fibromyalgia symptoms substantially reduce quality of life, cause severe impairments in psychosocial functioning and lead to significant socio-economical burdens. Sensitization of central nervous nociceptive pathways and deficient pain-inhibiting mechanisms are believed to play a key role in the pathogenesis of fibromyalgia. Psychological factors (deficits in emotional regulation, dysfunctional cognitive schemes) and dysregulation of the autonomic nervous system may also be involved.

By implementing a comprehensive research approach, this project investigates health-related quality of life, cognitive performance, emotional regulation, and psychophysiological processes (central nervous pain processing and autonomic control) in individuals with fibromyalgia. Research methods include self-report questionnaires, cognitive tests, psychophysiological techniques (e.g., functional transcranial Doppler sonography, electrocardiography and impedance cardiography) and computer-based algometry.

Students, as well as doctoral and post-doctoral researchers, at UMIT TIROL and the University of Jaén are involved in the project. The cooperation and regular travel between both sites by project members is supported by an ERASMUS+ agreement between both universities.

Previous publications from the project

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