

Social Cognition and Attachment Profiles of Fibromyalgia Syndrome Patients in Comparison with Healthy Subjects

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Abstract

Background: Fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS) is a chronic syndrome primarily characterized by widespread musculoskeletal pain. Although its etiology is not fully understood, complex interactions between biological, genetic and psycho-sociological factors thought to be effective in the onset and maintenance of FMS. Psychological factors could be explained by social cognitive concepts, which include mentalizing other person's intentions, beliefs, behaviors and attachment styles. Objectives: In this study we aimed to examine social cognitive and attachment profiles of FMS patients. Methods: The participants were recruited from Marmara University Pendik Training and Research Hospital. Sociodemographic data were questioned in both groups while FMS group was also administered Fibromyalgia Impact Questionnaire (FIQ) to determine disease severity. In order to evaluate social cognition profiles of the participants, Reading Mind in the Eyes Test (RMET), Empathy Quotient (EQ) and Experiences in Close Relationships-Revised were applied by the same researcher. Results: 41 women with FMS and 44 healthy women matched for education and age were involved in the study. There was no significant difference in sociodemographic parameters between FMS and control groups. FMS patients did not differ significantly from control subjects in means of RMET and EQ scores. Although no significant difference found between attachment anxiety, FMS patients were found to have more avoidant attachment style than control group. Conclusion: FMS patients may have no social cognition impairments, especially in lack of any psychiatric comorbidities. Moreover, these patients may suffer from avoidant type of insecure attachment and this attachment style may effect social support seeking behaviour of these patients.

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