

Cytokine patterns in fibromyalgia and their correlation with clinical manifestations

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OBJECTIVE: To examine the possible role of the soluble factor in fibromyalgia (FM) by studying the correlation of cytokine levels with the patients' clinical and psychiatric profile.

METHODS: Eighty FM patients underwent clinical and psychiatric evaluations, and plasma levels of cytokines (IL -1, IL -6, IL -8, IL -10, TNF-alpha), aspecific markers of inflammation, rheumatoid factor (RF), anti-extractable nuclear antigen (ENA) antibodies, and anti-nuclear factor (FAN) were measured.

RESULTS: Higher levels of IL -10, IL -8 and TNFalpha were found in FM patients than in controls. Significant correlations between the biochemical parameters and clinical data were found.

CONCLUSION: The higher levels of cytokines found in FM patients suggest the presence of an inflammatory response system (IR S) and highlight a parallel between the clinical symptoms and biochemical data. They support the hypothesis that cytokines may play a role in the clinical features of fibromyalgia. In addition, the similar cytokine patterns found in FM patients with different psychiatric profiles suggests that IR S impairment may play a specific role in the disease.