

Higher prevalence of fibromyalgia in deep infiltrating endometriosis patients

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Introduction:

Several painful disorders including fibromyalgia (FM) have been observed in endometriosis patients. However, there are no studies of FM prevalence in patients with deep infiltrating endometriosis (DIE) and how these condition could affect on their health-related quality of life (HRQoL).

Materials/patients and methods:

A prospective case-control study including three group of patients was performed. The DIE group included 40 patients (histologically confirmed DIE), non-DIE group comprises 38 patients (histologically confirmed superficial endometriosis or ovarian endometrioma (OE) \geq 3 cm, and C Group included 36 patients (surgically confirmed non-endometriosis controls undergoing laparoscopy for a mild, benign adnexal pathology). Patients and controls were recruited consecutively during the same 12-month period.

The FM screening was performed following the London Fibromyalgia Epidemiological Study Screening Questionnaire (LFESSQ). The point prevalence was calculated. All women answered the SF-36 questionnaire for evaluation of the health-related quality of life (HRQoL). The impact of FM was analyzed using a multivariate regression analysis.

Results:

The point prevalence of FM was 6,3% and 7,5% (LFESSQ-4 and LFESSQ-6 criteria, respectively) being in the DIE group significantly higher than in the non-DIE group and C-group ($p < 0.001$). FM was significantly associated with the worsening of the physical component summary of the SF-36. DIE patients reported significantly poorer HRQoL for all the SF-36 dimensions.

Conclusions:

Diagnosis of FM is increased in patients suffering DIE. Recent investigations have revealed that several painful disorders might share a common pathological process of dysregulated nociception, called central sensitization. This might explain why DIE patients who suffered persistent and severe pain were more likely to have FM. However, it is not clear if these disorders co-occur, act as risk factors or develop the transition from localized to widespread pain disorders. Further studies are needed to achieve a better understanding of these complex diseases.

Keywords : Fibromyalgia, Deep Infiltrating Endometriosis

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