

APPENDIX A

Literature review search strategy

We have performed a literature review for each question identified following a needs assessment. Databases that were queried were Embase, Medline and PsychInfo. Search terms used were relevant to each question. English language articles pertaining to adult human subjects were included, but if considered particularly relevant, other language articles were accessed. Studies with fewer than 30 patients were excluded unless the study addressed a subject of particular interest, or where there was a paucity of information. Titles and abstracts were screened and full text articles were retrieved for relevant references. As there is a paucity of randomized controlled trials for many aspects of management of patients with fibromyalgia, we considered a broad scope of evidence for this review.

The details of individual search strategies were recorded and are presented in Table 1. 4735 articles were identified, 2583 from Embase, 2133 from Medline, and 19 from PsychInfo. Titles were screened for relevance. Exclusion and merger following removal of duplicates yielded 363 citations which were then further screened by their abstracts. Of these, 150 were suitable for formal attribution of a level of evidence using the OEBM table (Appendix B) and full texts were accessed. Of the 150 appraised articles, 13 were located in two sections and were therefore appraised twice for suitability in answering each relevant question.

Questions driving literature search

DIAGNOSIS

1. How should FM be diagnosed?
2. What diagnoses can be confused with FM?

TREATMENTS

3. What non-pharmacologic treatments have a positive outcome for management of FM patients?
4. What pharmacologic treatments have a positive outcome for management of FM patients?
5. What kind of specialist input can be beneficial for the management of FM patients?
6. How can psychological evaluation and counseling help in the management of FM patients?
7. How should patients with FM contribute to their management?
8. What are the benefits of patient education regarding understanding and management of FM?
9. What evidence do we have on alternative or complementary treatments of FM?
10. Should treatment interventions be re-evaluated and at which frequency?

OUTCOME

11. What measurements should be used to evaluate patient outcome?
12. How should physicians discuss outcome goals with patients?
13. How can patients maintain optimal function?
14. Should patients currently in the workforce maintain working activity?
15. Containment in healthcare system and cost effectiveness
16. Who should manage patients with FM?
17. How can primary care physicians be more comfortable with diagnosing and managing FM?
18. Why are health care professionals reluctant to care for FM patients?

Table 1. Literature search results

	Initial search	1 st removal	2 nd removal (duplicates)	Final appraisal
D1E	175	6	13	8
D1M	140	7		
D2E	285	3	8	5
D2M	205	5		
T3E	265	38	78	45
T3M	200	40		
T4E	252	33	73	34
T4M	149	41		
T5E	199	1	2	0
T5M	43	1		
T6E	109	2	17	6
T6M	85	12		
T6P	14	3		
T7E	251	2	2	1
T7M	82	0		
T8E	208	2	4	1
T8M	118	2		
T9E	106	17	61	19
T9M	178	54		
T10E	126	2	7	0
T10M	198	5		
O11E	94	3	10	6
O11M	168	7		
O12E	67	3	11	6
O12M	114	8		
O12P	3	0		
O13E	150	20	32	13
O13M	135	12		
O14E	96	4	13	5
O14M	49	9		
O15E	101	5	21	13
O15M	91	16		
O16E	0	0	8	1
O16M	116	8		
O17E	29	2	2	0
O17M	17	0		
O18E	70	0	1	0
O18M	45	1		
O18P	2	0		

Legend : D :Diagnosis; T :Treatment; O :Outcome; E :Embase; M : Medline; P: PsychInfo