

Comment

To the Editor:

I write to expand on the very interesting findings by Coury, *et al*¹ regarding the ameliorating effects of coexisting fibromyalgia (FM) on inflammatory damage from rheumatoid arthritis (RA). I offer a possible explanation for their results.

We recently described cytokine and chemokine aberrations in 92 FM patients and 69 family members compared to 77 controls². Although no inflammation existed in tissues affected by FM, we found elevated plasma concentrations of several proinflammatory proteins including tumor necrosis factor- α , interleukin 1 β (IL-1 β), and interferon- γ , among others. However, antiinflammatory potential was also manifested in the forms of elevated IL-13, IL-10, IL-4, and IL-1ra. This raises the possibility that FM evokes no inflammatory response because of this cytokine admixture. If so, this would obviously prove somewhat salutary for patients with RA.

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REFERENCES

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