

# INPLASY PROTOCOL

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None declared.

## Fibromyalgia Syndrome Pain in Men and Women: A Scoping Review

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**Review question / Objective:** This review aims to (1) determine how pain is assessed or what types of questionnaires are used, (2) examine whether there are differences in pain characteristics between men and women with FMS, and (3) describe how pain is conceptualized or manifested in patients at a qualitative level. In this study, the scoping review method of articles published in the last 5 years (2016-2022) was used.

**Information sources:** The bibliographic search was carried out during the months of February and July 2022. The electronic databases used for the search were PubMed, SCOPUS, CINAHL, Web of Science and Google Scholar. In each of these, an exhaustive search was performed using a combination of Boolean logic and truncations for the following keywords: "pain", "fibromyalgia", "men", "women", "conceptualiza-tion", "manifestation", "score" and "assessment".

**INPLASY registration number:** This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 27 December 2022 and was last updated on 27 December 2022 (registration number INPLASY2022120105).

### INTRODUCTION

**Review question / Objective:** This review aims to (1) determine how pain is assessed or what types of questionnaires are used, (2) examine whether there are differences in pain characteristics between men and women with FMS, and (3) describe how pain is conceptualized or manifested in

patients at a qualitative level. In this study, the scoping review method of articles published in the last 5 years (2016-2022) was used.

**Rationale:** The choice of the scoping review was mainly due to the heterogeneous nature of FMS in existing studies to date. The scoping review allows us to better

group the literature according to its characteristics.

**Condition being studied:** We study people affected by fibromyalgia syndrome (FM).

## METHODS

**Search strategy:** The bibliographic search was carried out during the months of February and July 2022. The electronic databases used for the search were PubMed, SCOPUS, CINAHL, Web of Science and Google Scholar. In each of these, an exhaustive search was performed using a combination of Boolean logic and truncations for the following keywords: "pain", "fi-bromyalgia", "men", "women", "conceptualization", "manifestation", "score" and "assessment".

The following search string was used for SCOPUS: (fibromyalgia) AND (pain) AND (men OR women) AND (score OR manifestation OR concept\* OR assessment). For the PubMed database, we used (((("Fibromyalgia"[Mesh]) AND "Pain"[Mesh]) AND "Men"[Mesh]) OR "Women"[Mesh]) OR ("Pain Measurement/classification"[Mesh] OR "Pain Measurement/instrumentation"[Mesh] OR "Pain Measurement/nursing"[Mesh] OR "Pain Measurement/psychology"[Mesh] ) OR (score) OR (concept\*) OR (manifestation) OR (assessment). For the CINAHL, Web of Science and Google Scholar Boolean we used the terms fibromyalgia AND pain AND (men OR women) AND (score OR manifestation OR concept\* OR assessment).

**Participant or population:** People affected by fibromyalgia syndrome.

**Intervention:** Not applicable.

**Comparator:** Not applicable.

**Study designs to be included:** Observational studies with quantitative or qualitative methodology. Clinical trials, case studies, opinion articles, interventions, or systematic reviews (with or without meta-analysis) were excluded to ensure higher quality evidence.

**Eligibility criteria:** The identified studies were subjected to inclusion and exclusion criteria. To be included, studies had to be published from January 2016 to July 2022, available in full text, written in English or Spanish, and use both quantitative (observational studies) and qualitative methodology.

**Information sources:** The bibliographic search was carried out during the months of February and July 2022. The electronic databases used for the search were PubMed, SCOPUS, CINAHL, Web of Science and Google Scholar. In each of these, an exhaustive search was performed using a combination of Boolean logic and truncations for the following keywords: "pain", "fibromyalgia", "men", "women", "conceptualiza-tion", "manifestation", "score" and "assessment".

**Main outcome(s):** The identified studies were subjected to inclusion and exclusion criteria. To be included, studies had to be published from January 2016 to July 2022, available in full text, written in English or Spanish, and use both quantitative (observational studies) and qualitative methodology. Clinical trials, case studies, opinion articles, interventions, or systematic reviews (with or without meta-analysis) were excluded to ensure higher quality evidence.

**Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis:** The articles retrieved by the database search were evaluated by the PhD supervisor, who made the evaluation by reading the title and abstract provided by the PhD student. The previous authors also read the full texts of all publications that could not be excluded at the title/abstract level. They reviewed the abstracts/titles of the articles and agreed on which met the inclusion/exclusion criteria for full-text review. Disagreements about study selection and data extraction were resolved by consensus by the majority of the authors of the present review or by using an external author.

**Strategy of data synthesis:** Data were extracted from full-text articles that met

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the objectives and inclusion criteria. Definitive data were obtained using a data extraction form with the following information: author(s), year of publication, country, study design, study objective(s), participants (sex and age range). In the case of quantitative studies, the types of questionnaires used were also considered. In the qualitative articles, for the review of the experiences of men and women with FMS, the authors proceeded to analyze the discourses related to the conceptualization or manifestation of pain by means of categories and subcategories.

**Subgroup analysis:** This scoping review was undertaken in line with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews (PRISMA) guidelines for scoping reviews.

We progressed with two phases to obtain and show the presence in the verbal explanations and experiences of people with FMS of the categories and possible subcategories in each study: (1) statements, responses, individual or group aspects related to pain were identified; (2) after having recognized the categories, a second in-depth analysis was carried out that allowed us to get subcategories and to be able to catalogue them.

**Sensitivity analysis:** Not applicable.

**Language restriction:** English and Spanish only.

**Country(ies) involved:** The authors are Spanish or American.

**Keywords:** Fibromyalgia; pain; assessment; experience; review.

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6.; writing-original draft preparation, author1; writing-review and editing, all authors.; supervision, author 2 and 6.; All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.