

The role of decision-making in syndromes characterized by chronic pain

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Chronic pain is a complex and multidimensional neurological condition that profoundly affects the daily functioning of individuals, impairing physical, emotional, and cognitive aspects. Among chronic pain syndromes, fibromyalgia (FM) is distinguished by its high prevalence and association with subjective cognitive disorders, commonly known as “fibrofog.” Despite the growing interest in the neurocognitive correlates of FM, research on decision-making (DM) function remains limited, despite its fundamental role in daily life. The brain areas involved in the management of chronic pain, particularly the prefrontal cortex, overlap with those devoted to executive functions. This has the potential to generate interference that can impair the ability to make effective decisions, especially in situations of uncertainty or risk. The findings of this study indicate that the difficulties experienced by individuals with persistent pain do not exclusively stem from psychological comorbidities, such as anxiety or depression. Rather, these difficulties are the result of a multifaceted interaction between persistent pain, attentional dysregulation, and alterations in reward circuits. This image exerts a tangible influence on patients’ day-to-day lives, impacting personal decisions, interpersonal relationships, and therapeutic choices. Greater clinical and scientific attention to these aspects could contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the cognitive profile of syndromes characterized by chronic pain and foster more targeted interventions.

If you’re submitting a symposium talk, what’s the symposium title?

Scelte nei contesti di salute e vulnerabilità cognitiva: un’analisi sul decision-making in popolazione sana e clinica

If you’re submitting a symposium, or a talk that is part of a symposium, is this a junior symposium?

No

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