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PERSONALITY DIMENSIONS AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE DISEASE:
FIBROMYALGIA

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Introduction: There have been numerous studies that reveal attitudes of different social groups in relation to mental illness, but have not been developed none in other chronic diseases such as fibromyalgia.

Our hypothesis is to demonstrate that there are certain beliefs about the disease that determine attitudes, and these beliefs may be related to certain personality patterns.

Objectives: To determine the relationship between personality dimensions and attribution of causes fibromyalgia.

Method: Evaluation of a sample of medical students, which were administered the following tests: demographic data (age, sex, year of study), Zuckerman-Kuhlman's Questionnaire of personality, level of concern about the disease and survey of possible causes in fibromyalgia.

Results: A total of 34 students were interviewed, between 3rd and 6th grade of Medicine, with a mean age of 24.8 years (sd 5.5). 70.6% were women. 20.6% had contact with the disease (which in most cases a family member diagnosed with fibromyalgia), no statistically significant differences with respect to the concern about the disease, compared with the rest. There is a high level of agreement in the sample in the attribution of cause of fibromyalgia to a genetic predisposition, personality or sleep disorders.

In our study, Neuroticism stands between personality dimension. High scores on this dimension are associated with statistically significant differences (t-student), to attribute the cause "attract attention" (p=0.02) or the "Influence of the mass media" (p=0,03) in fibromyalgia.

Conclusions: There are dimensions of personality such as neuroticism, which may influence the attribution of causes of the disease Fibromyalgia.