Genome-wide analysis of single nucleotide polymorphisms and copy number variants in fibromyalgia suggest a role for the central nervous system

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INTRODUCTION

Fibromyalgia (FM) is a highly disabling syndrome affecting 2.9% of the European population [3], mainly women in the fourth decade of life, with a female:male ratio of 21:1 [33]. Fibromyalgia is defined by a low pain threshold and a permanent state of pain, accompanied by a constellation of symptoms, such as fatigue, sleep disturbances and cognitive impairment, among others. In the absence of suitable diagnostic tests, FM diagnosis is established by the presence of symptoms for at least three months and the exclusion of somatic diseases [43; 44].

The mechanisms explaining this chronic pain remain unclear. The most established hypothesis underlying FM etiopathogenesis is the existence of a dysfunction in pain processing. FM patients have been shown to present structural differences in the brain [13; 19]. Furthermore, there are several evidences of central sensitization at various levels in the nervous system [11], as well as neurochemical imbalances in the central nervous system leading to a "central amplification" of pain perception [14; 45].

The response to painful stimuli and the FM phenotype have both a genetic component. FM shows family aggregation [4; 5] and higher concordance in monozygotic than dizygotic twins (0.29 vs. 0.16) [18], while the response to painful stimuli has an estimated heritability of 22% to 55% [28]. However, the exploration of the genetic contribution to pain response and chronic pain states is, so far, scarce [27].

Genetic studies performed so far in FM have not been able to establish a clear genetic association. Most of them have been candidate gene studies, focused on genes related to HLA and neurotransmitters [17; 21; 47]. So far, two studies have attempted to explore the genetic contribution to FM in a genome-wide manner. One of them analyzed over 3200 SNPs in 350 genes implicated in pain transmission, inflammatory responses, and in influencing mood and affective states associated with chronic pain conditions, in 496 FM cases and 348 controls. However, the strongest associations did not replicate in independent cohorts [35]. The other one was a linkage scan evaluating 341 markers in 206 affected sibling pairs. They detected a signal in chromosome 17 but no replication analysis was performed [1]. Another recent GWAS study investigating genetic factors involved in chronic widespread pain [30] identified a region of association in chromosome 5, near *CCT5* and *FAM173B*. These two genes also showed a higher RNA-expression in mouse models of inflammatory pain.

The aim of this study was to elucidate genetic susceptibility factors for fibromyalgia. We addressed this objective through two main approaches: a genome-wide association study (GWAS) and the evaluation of copy number variants (CNVs), using genotyping data and array comparative genomic hybridization experiments (aCGH). These analyses were performed on a large and very well characterized cohort of FM patients.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Samples

Fibromyalgia Units of five Spanish Hospitals participated in the collection of samples. An initial set of 313 female samples (FM_discovery), characterized by having low levels of psychiatric comorbidities and being the best fitting the FM diagnosis, was collected at the beginning of the study, and collection continued until an additional set of 1088 female patients (FM_replication) was achieved (total female FM cohort = 1401). All patients fulfilled the 1990's American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria for fibromyalgia and were selected by the rheumatologists of the units participating in the study. Patients were then evaluated by another set of physicians trained in the assessment of FM patients. They all passed the same questionnaires and physical examination. For a detailed description of the cohort, see Docampo *et al*, 2013 [9]. All samples were Spanish of Caucasian origin and had signed informed consent before enrolment. The ethics committees at all recruitment centers approved the project.

We recently performed cluster analysis on the whole cohort of patients, and found that they could be classified into three empirical subgroups, which we then labeled: "FM with low levels of comorbidities and symptomatology" (cluster 1), "FM with high levels of both symptomatology and comorbidities" (cluster 2), and "FM with high symptomatology but low levels of comorbidities" (cluster 3) [9]. A brief summary of the process is provided in the supplementary methods.

Three different control cohorts were used for this study: a cohort of 220 female Spanish samples (ECHRS) from the GABRIEL consortium (http://www.cng.fr/gabriel/index.html) was used in the GWAS analysis (con_ECHRS). In the GWAS replication studies, we genotyped a cohort of 535 female control samples (con_SAL), corresponding to subjects with low levels of pain and fatigue (as assessed by a questionnaire) provided by the National DNA Bank of Salamanca, and a set of 142 female Spanish blood donor samples (con_VH). For the CNV analysis, only the con_SAL set of control samples was used.

A flowchart representing the different cohorts and the analysis in which they were used is provided in the supplementary material (supplementary figure 1).

Whole genome association study

Genotyping

FM female cases (313 samples, FM_discovery), selected by clinicians for having low levels of psychiatric comorbidities and being the best fitting the FM diagnosis, were genotyped with Illumina 1M-Duo chip. Genotyping was performed in CeGen (Barcelona Node), following the manufacturer's protocol.

Data from 220 general Spanish population samples (GABRIEL consortium http://www.cng.fr/gabriel/index.html) genotyped with Illumina 610-quad chip was used as control dataset (con_ECHRS).

Quality control

Quality control (QC) was performed with PLINK [32] (Supplementary methods).

Allelic association

Allelic association analysis was performed with PLINK (5% of significance level). QQ plots were performed with the WGAviewer software [12], and Manhattan plot and linkage disequilibrium (LD) evaluation with Haploview software [2].

Power analysis was performed with Quanto (http://hydra.usc.edu/gxe/), showing that for SNPs with MAF \geq 0.05, and given our sample size, we had over 80% power to detect associations with OR \geq 2.0 but it showed much lower power to detect associations with smaller OR (1.2) (supplementary methods).

Imputation

For GWAS regions showing positive signals, we performed imputation in a window span of 100kb with Impute v2 (http://mathgen.stats.ox.ac.uk/impute/impute_v2.html) (Supplementary methods).

SNPs annotation and Pathway analysis

SNPs showing strongest association were annotated with WGAViewer [12]. The relation to disease of the SNPs and their genomic regions was evaluated with the Decipher database (http://decipher.sanger.ac.uk/). These SNPs were also analyzed with Ingenuity Systems

Pathway analysis (IPA) software (http://www.ingenuity.com/) and GeneSet analysis Toolkit v2 (http://bioinfo.vanderbilt.edu/webgestalt/). The function of associated SNPs was evaluated with Genevar (http://www.sanger.ac.uk/resources/software/genevar/) (1 MB window centred in the transcription start site of the gene, Spearman Rank Correlation (p <0.001)), Puppasuite (http://pupasuite.bioinfo.cipf.es/), and the Regulome database (http://www.regulomedb.org/).

Replication

Twenty-one SNPs showing strongest association values were genotyped in a replication set from our cohort, consisting in 952 female FM cases (FM_replication) and 644 female controls (529 from con_SAL + 115 from con_VH). These SNPs were prioritized based on their p-values, the presence of association peaks (clustering of SNPs with strong associations in a genomic region), their function (only including SNPs located in genes or gene regions recognizedby UCSC genome browser and WGA viewer software), and pathway analysis results, focusing on genes from the highlighted neurological disease pathway.

Genotyping was performed by Kbiosciences (KASPar[®]). As quality control, duplicates (two HapMap samples in each plate) and negative controls where included. SNPs not fulfilling HWE, with a MAF <5% or a low genotyping rate (<95%), as well as samples with low genotyping rate (<95%), were excluded from the analysis. This resulted in the exclusion of one SNP and 55 samples (12 cases and 43 controls). Association analysis was performed with SNPassoc R package.

CNV analysis

CNVs were assessed by aCGH. Experiments were performed with the Agilent[®] 400K using a pooling strategy to dilute common CNV polymorphisms due to inter-individual variability and highlight those common variants with a different frequency between cases and controls [8]. From the FM_discovery set, three pools of FM samples were designed, two with 20 FM cases each (FM_1 and FM_2) and one with 30 cases (FM_3). All the samples included in the pools had a family history of FM, and low levels of psychiatric comorbidities, and were grouped based on characteristics such as absence (FM1) or presence (FM2) of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, or early onset of symptoms (FM3). FM pools were hybridized against one pool of controls from the con_SAL set (50 samples).

The resulting data was analyzed with Agilent's Genomic Workbench software, using the ADM-2 algorithm. We selected regions with at least three aberrant probes and a smoothed log2ratio >0.3 (2 standard deviations).

Validation of array results

Breakpoints were detected by PCR amplification of the deleted allele based on data from Conrad *et al.* [6], followed by sequencing of the amplified products and BLAT alignment. Multiplex reactions for each CNV, including primers for both the deleted and non-deleted forms, were designed for genotyping. PCR conditions for the different experiments are described in supplementary methods.

CNV genotyping reactions included both samples from FM cases and controls in order to avoid possible bias, non-template controls and, when available, positive controls (HapMap samples with validated genotypes for each CNV [6]). NRXN3_del was also assessed by a Veracode assay as described [10].

Allelic association analysis was performed with Fisher exact test. Genotypic association analyses were performed using binomial and multinomial regression models for casecontrol and among fibromyalgia clusters studies respectively. Quality control and association analyses of the Veracode assay were performed with PLINK software.

RESULTS

Genome-wide association study

SNP genotyping analysis highlights the involvement of genes in neurological pathways

After QC procedures, 505,454 SNPs were considered for allelic association analyses in 300 FM and 203 controls. These samples did not show evidence of population stratification, as illustrated by the QQ plot (Figure 1) and the genomic inflation value (λ = 1.013). Association analysis did not yield any SNP association over the GWAS significance threshold, as shown in the Manhattan plot (Figure 2). Nevertheless, some possible association peaks emerged at chromosomes 3 and X, and eight SNPs showed p-values <1x10⁻⁵, while another 69 had p-values <1x10⁻⁴.

These top 77 SNPs (p-value $<1x10^{-4}$) (Supplementary Table 4) were selected to perform pathway analysis. Out of the 77 gene IDs introduced in IPA, 53 were mapped. IPA pathway

analysis identified two top networks that were overrepresented in our geneset: reproductive system disease (16 genes) and neurological disease (12 genes). Thirty-one of the 77 gene IDs were mapped in Geneset analysis Toolkit to perform GO analysis, identifying two main molecular functions: protein binding and ion binding, with 16 and 14 genes, respectively; in these categories, the analysis also identified metal ion binding as the only statistically significant overrepresented molecular function (p-adjusted <0.05, Benjamini correction).

Replication

Twenty-one of the top 77 SNPs were selected for replication in a larger cohort, after a prioritization step based on imputation data and gene function. Replication was performed only in females. After QC procedures, 20 SNPs in 940 cases and 601 controls were considered for the replication analysis. We performed allelic association tests. In the replication data we observed significant evidence of SNP-effect sizes in the same direction as the discovery set (9/17). Only one of these SNPs, rs11127292, located in the *MYT1L* (myelin transcription factor 1-like) gene, showed association (p <0.05) (Table 1). Based on 17 (21, 1 no HWE, 3 not independent) independent SNPs taken forward, we would expect 0.05x17 = 0.85 to reach p = 0.05 by chance.

We then applied the subphenotyping of the samples [9], and three subphenotype cohorts were tested for association for the four SNPs showing the strongest joint p-values. Again, rs11127292 showed association in female FM cases with low levels of comorbidities and high levels of symptomatology (joint p-value = 4.28×10^{-5}) (Table 2). Potential functionality of this SNP was tested by Genvar cis-eQTL-SNP analysis, which showed a correlation trend (p=0.0091, while the empirical threshold for significance is 0.0086) between this SNP and expression levels of *STNG2* (one expression probe) (supplementary figure 3). Assessing functional significance of this SNP with Puppasuite or Regulomedb did not highlight any other potential functionality.

CNV analysis identifies NRXN3 as a novel FM gene

We detected seven regions showing differential hybridization between FM and control pools both in direct and dye swap hybridizations (Supplementary table 5). Three of these regions (*WDR60*, *DOCK5* and *SIRPB1*), were not considered for replication since they repeatedly appeared in the aCGH experiments performed in the laboratory for different

disorders (data not shown). An additional region detected by the less restrictive ADM-1 was also considered for validation as a functional candidate.

We attempted to validate the remaining four regions coming from ADM-2 analysis, and the ADM-1 detected region, *MYO5B*. We mapped or confirmed CNV breakpoints (*GALNTL6*: rs67651552; *PTPRD*: rs71315285; *MYO5B*: rs72192652; WWOX: hg18_chr16: 76929139-76942400; and *NRXN3*:hg18_chr14:79175982-79184862) and designed multiplex PCR experiments for genotyping. Genotyping was performed first in a subset of 345 FM samples (selected randomly from FM_discovery and FM_replication) and 133 controls from con_SAL, and, if aCGH findings were supported, in our entire cohort (FM_discovery + FM_replication and con_SAL). Only one CNV (NRXN3) was considered for genotyping in the entire cohort.

The CNV located in the intronic region of *NRXN3* showed support for association in the initial genotyping step. Genotyping of the initial subset of 345 FM cases and 133 controls confirmed the results observed in the pools, showing an association of the deleted allele with FM (genotypic association, recessive model p = 9.215×10^{-5} , OR (95%CI) = 3.29 (1.69-6.41); allelic association p = 0.16 Fisher Test). We then completed the genotyping of our entire cohort (genotypic association, recessive model p = 0.021, OR (95%CI) = 1.46 (1.05-2.04); allelic association Fisher Test p = 0.015, OR (95%CI) = 1.22 (1.03-1.43)), which validated the association.

We then applied the cluster classification described previously [9] and performed association analyses for each of the FM clusters against the controls. The significance of the association of the deleted allele with FM was maintained when selecting samples with low levels of comorbidities (clusters 1 and 3) (genotypic association, recessive model p = 0.019, OR (95%CI) = 1.49 (1.06-2.11); allelic association Fisher Test p = 0.004, OR (95%CI) = 1.27 (1.07-1.50)). The genotypic distribution in the different subsets is summarized in Tables 3 and 4.

DISCUSSION

We have explored the genetic susceptibility to FM through GWAS and aCGH assessment of CNVs. Our findings identify two associated variants, a SNP in *MYT1L*, and an intronic CNV in *NRXN3*. Both results suggest a possible role for the central nervous system in FM genetic susceptibility.

None of the SNPs reached genome-wide significance, but we observed signal peaks at chromosomes 3 and X, and identified 77 SNPs with p-values <1x10⁻⁴. Since recent studies detected linkage to chr17 [1], and association in chr5 [30], we specifically checked our GWAS signals in these regions. Among the top 77 SNPs, four were located in chr17 and one in chr5, although outside the reported linkage or association regions. Twenty-one SNPs, including one in chr17, were selected for replication in a large independent FM cohort. Nine of the SNPs showed an effect in the same direction than those identified in the discovery cohort, and one, rs11127292, had a nominally significant p-value.

rs11127292 is located in the third intron of *MYT1L*, and may be correlated to expression levels of *SNTG2* in lymphocytes. Both *MYT1L* and *SNTG2* are good candidates for FM: they are involved in neuronal pathways, and FM could be characterized by a central nervous system (CNS) dysfunction [36]. *MYT1L is* involved in neuronal differentiation [31; 40], and variants in this gene have been associated with neuropsychiatric disorders [25; 41; 42], while variants in *SNTG2* have been associated to autism [46] and to suicide attempts in major depression [29].

The potential role for the CNS dysfunction in FM was not only highlighted by the association of rs11127292. Neurological disease was one of the two top networks identified by IPA analysis of the 77 GWAS top SNPs. Furthermore, Geneset GO analysis showed ion binding (and calcium in particular) as one of the two main molecular functions, calcium channel complex as the top molecular component, and regulation of calcium mediated signalling and calcium ion transport and neurogenesis among the top ten biological functions. These results suggest an involvement of the CNS in fibromyalgia, supporting the hypothesis that FM could be due to a dysfunction in pain processing.

Nevertheless, we have to take these results with care since this GWAS presents as its main limitation the reduced number of samples considered. Although the samples were carefully selected to attain a more homogeneous phenotype, the high genetic and phenotypic heterogeneity of FM, coupled with the small discovery sample size, could explain why we were not able to detect an association reaching GWAS significance. The small sample size could also result in the detection of false positives and a consequent lack of replication of associated variants. Since we used a different genotyping platform for the controls, despite performing careful QC, some technical bias could remain leading to false positives. Nevertheless, the association of rs11127292 was confirmed in the replication phase, and stratified analysis improved the replication results, highlighting the importance of a precise

phenotyping of the samples in dissecting the genetic components of extremely complex disorders like FM.

We also explored the contribution of CNVs to FM genetic susceptibility using aCGH with a pooling strategy. Seven regions showed differential hybridization in aCGH experiments, one of which, an intronic 8kb deletion within the *NRXN3* gene, was validated on follow-up. Further subsetting of the samples also increased the significance of the association in those samples with low levels of comorbidities. We could not confirm an association for the CNVs within *GALNTL6, WWOX, PTPRD* and *MYO5B,* but their participation in FM cannot be completely excluded, as they could be low effect variants, requiring larger cohorts for validation. These genes have been shown to play a role in the CNS [22; 23; 34; 38], and considering our GWAS and aCGH results, this would make them good candidates for FM susceptibility.

The use of pooled samples presents clear economic advantages, but it can also lead to a higher number of false positives. Causes of false positives can be due to real but random differences in the frequencies between cases and controls, or to unequal sample contributions to the pools, leading to biased overrepresentation of rare variants. In order to overcome these limitations, we used three independent pools of FM as biological replicates. All three FM pools were hybridized against the same control pool, which had been frequently tested in the laboratory. Variants recurrently appearing in other hybridizations with this control pool were filtered out. In addition, direct and 'dye-swap' experiments were performed. Nevertheless, only one of the five regions selected for follow-up showed association with FM in the larger cohort.

An intronic CNV in *NRXN3* was associated with FM with low levels of comorbidities. NRXN3 is a good candidate for FM as it is essential for neuronal development and for signal transmission. Neurexins are among the most widely studied adhesion and scaffolding molecules involved in synapse stability and function. They are transmembrane proteins located in the presynaptic neuron. They have three extracellular binding partners: neuroligins, dystroglycan and neurexophilins [7]. In particular, the binding with neuroligins is essential for the development and function of GABAergic and glutamatergic synapses [37]. Several variants in neurexin genes (rare CNVs and SNPs) have been associated with different phenotypes, mainly neuropsychiatric disorders, including addictive behavior [16; 20] and obesity [15]. Changes in *NRXN3* and therefore in signal transmission could explain the central nervous pain dysfunction characteristic of FM.

The detected *NRXN3* variant is an intronic CNV. We tried to identify a possible link to other functional variants by genotyping additional *NRXN3* variants in the FM samples, unsuccesfully (data not shown). We then considered possible functional consequences of the CNV at the mRNA level. NRXN3 has several different isoforms generated by alternative splicing. One of the alternative splicing sites is located relatively close to the CNV. Preliminary data from two neuronal cell lines indicate that the CNV could affect differential skipping of exon 20, which encodes a protein domain involved in binding to neuroligins [44], although data from lymphoblastoid cell lines do not support this hypothesis. In order to extract a definite conclusion regarding the correlation between exon-skipping and the CNV, it would be advisable to test additional neuronal cells with different genotypes for the deletion, as it is possible that the splicing behavior changes between lymphoblastoid and neuronal lineages.

Although our results correspond to the analysis of a small initial dataset, we have found further support in a larger, well-characterized cohort, especially when selecting for a specific phenotype. It would be particularly interesting to follow up on our results by validation of the specific findings in additional large, well characterized, cohorts. This is challenging in FM since, to our knowledge, this cohort is the largest existing FM DNA collection.

The two identified FM associations, the SNP in *MYTL1* and the CNV in *NRXN3*, were slightly improved after subphenotyping. This indicates that identifying homogeneous phenotypes constitutes a key step for the identification of FM genetic susceptibility factors. The slight improvement in the association scores further validates the cluster-based classification used, indicating that cases with low levels of comorbidities form a more genetically homogeneous subset of FM cases.

In summary, our GWAS and aCGH results point at a role for the CNS in FM genetic susceptibility. In fact, variants detected by both studies are linked: calcium transport appears as one of the main GWAS molecular functions, and the neurexins-neuroligins complex formation is dependent on calcium [26]; also, the SNP showing the strongest association has been correlated with expression levels of *SNTG2* (in blood) and SNTG2 interacts with neuroligins 3 and 4, which are neurexin partners [46]. Furthermore, another study evaluating gene expression of FM individuals detected changes in genes implicated in pain transmission, which would support our findings [24]. This CNS implication in FM would be further supported by recently published findings on pain, showing evidence for specific

neurophysiologic alterations in FM patients [39]. Of particular interest, functional and morphological impairment of small fibers have been reported in FM cases. Individuals presenting those electrophysiological changes would be the ideal models to explore the association and functionality of our detected genetic variants in order to try to establish a correlation with clinical severity, outcome and response to treatment.

In spite of the difficulties encountered in the study of genetic factors of FM (clinical heterogeneity, reduced availability of replication cohorts and non-availability of target tissue) we have been able to detect variants that can shed a light on genetic factors determining FM susceptibility. To our knowledge, only neurotransmitter related genes (including receptors, transporters and enzymes implicated in neurotransmitters metabolism) had been tested as FM susceptibility candidates. The possible role of synaptic structural molecules such as NRXN3 and molecules implicated in CNS development and functioning, such as MYTL1, open a new wide field of research on aetiology and drug targets. One consideration that we have to take into account is that all of these molecules have been previously associated with neuropsychiatric disorders. If these synapse genes associations are confirmed in other FM cohorts, it would constitute an additional argument to consider FM as a neuropsychiatric disorder.

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FIGURE LEGENDS:

Fig. 1: QQ plot of fibromyalgia GWAS. Observed p-values are plotted against expected p-values in an association study of 500 k SNPs. The almost perfect correlation between observed and expected values was indicative of absence of population stratification as proven by a genomic inflation (λ) value of 1.013. Figure obtained with WGA viewer software.

Fig. 2: Manhattan plot representing the results of the fibromyalgia GWAS. The negative LOG_{10} p-values of all SNPs are plotted against their chromosomal positions. Chromosomes are represented by different colors.

SUMMARY

Variants in *NRXN3* and *MYT1L* are associated with fibromyalgia. Our results point to a role for the central nervous system in susceptibility to fibromyalgia.





rs11127292	F_FM	F_CONTROLS	P-value	OR (95%CI)
Discovery (300 FM vs. 203 C)	0.051	0.125	2.6x10 ⁻⁵	0.37 (0.23-0.60)
Replication (940 FM vs. 592 C)	0.091	0.114	0.03	0.76 (0.60-0.97)
Discovery + Replication (1240 FM vs. 795 C)	0.081	0.117	1.76x10 ⁻⁴	0.67 (0.54-0.82)
Discovery cl3 (196 FM vs. 203 C)	0.045	0.125	6.21x10 ⁻⁵	0.33 (0.19-0.58)
Replication cl3 (450 FM vs. 592 C)	0.083	0.114	0.019	0.70 (0.52-0.94)
Discovery cl1 + Replication cl1 (240 FM vs. 795 C)	0.085	0.117	0.05	0.70 (0.49-1.01)
Discovery cl2 + Replication cl2 (304FM vs. 795 C)	0.092	0.117	0.09	0.76 (0.55-1.04)
Discovery cl3 + Replication cl3 (646 FM vs. 795 C)	0.071	0.117	4.28x10 ⁻⁵	0.58 (0.44-0.75)
Discovery cl1 3 + Replication cl1 3 (886 FM vs. 795 C)	0.075	0.117	4.03x10 ⁻⁵	0.61 (0.48-0.77)

Table 2. rs11127292 allelic association in the different fibromyalgia clusters in GWAS, replication and joint cohorts

F: frequency of the effect allele (minor allele; A or T in rs1112792); Discovery: FM_discovery vs CON_discovery; Replication: FM_replication vs CON_VH + CON_SAL; FM: fibromyalgia individuals; C: controls; cl1, cl2, cl3, cl1_3: clusters 1, 2, 3, and 1 and 3, respectively.

l	GENOTYPES	CON = 445 N (%)	FM = 1358 N (%)	FM cl1 = 268 N (%)	FM cl2 = 330 N (%)	FM cl3 = 712 N (%)	FM cl1_3 = 980 N (%)
	Del/Del	48 (10.8)	204 (15.0)	50 (17.5)	497(14.2)	103 (14.5)	150 (15.3)
	Del/NoDel	207 (46.5)	640 (47.1)	132 (47.4)	146 (44.2)	349 (49.0)	476 (48.6)
	NoDel/NoDel	190 (42.7)	514 (37.8)	95 (35.1)	137 (41.5)	260 (36.5)	354 (36.1)

Table 3. Genotype distribution of NRXN3_DEL among cases and controls in the studied cohorts

Del: Deleted; NoDel: Non-deleted; CON: Control; FM: Fibromialgia (FM_discovery + FM_replication); FM cl1, FM cl2, FM cl3, FM cl1_3: Fibromyalgia cases corresponding to clusters 1, 2, 3, and 1 and 3, respectively. 48 FM samples could not be assigned to a cluster.

SNP	Rank	Туре	Gene/Region	P GWAS	OR (95%CI)	P replication	OR (95%CI)	Combined P	OR (95%CI)
rs12556003	1	intron	MCF2	2.14x10 ⁻⁶	0.34 (0.21-0.54)	0.132	0.81 (0.62-1.06)	1.98x10 ⁻⁴	0.65 (0.52-0.81)
rs12704506	2	intergenic	STEAP1/STEAP2	3.20x10 ⁻⁶	2.19 (1.56-3.07)	0.010	0.81 (0.67-0.96)	0.9	1.00 (0.86-1.17)
rs11923054	3	intron	ZBBX	3.52x10 ⁻⁶	0.54 (0.42-0.70)	0.580	0.93 (0.80-1.08)	0.0047	0.83 (0.73-0.94)
rs2858166	4	5 kb_down	ARMCX6	3.61x10 ⁻⁶	1.83 (1.42-2.38)	0.695	0.99 (0.86-1.15)	0.008	1.18 (1.04-1.34)
rs10782344	5	intergenic	RP11-518I13.1	3.63x10 ⁻⁶	2.22 (1.57-3.12)	0.526	1.07 (0.89-1.28)	0.004	1.26 (1.07-1.48)
rs1998709	6	intron	PLCE1	7.62x10 ⁻⁶	1.80 (1.39-2.33)	0.14	0.87 (0.75-1.02)	0.3397	1.06 (0.93-1.21)
rs2901761	IM	Intron	PLCE1	5.11x10 ⁻⁷	0.50 (0.38-0.66)	‡	‡	‡	‡
rs2194390	7	intron	NRXN1	8.06x10 ⁻⁶	0.41 (0.21-0.67)	0.702	1.07 (0.84-1.35)	0.049	0.81 (0.67-0.99)
rs2701106	8	intergenic	TBX5	8.94x10 ⁻⁶	1.84 (1.40-2.42)	0.287	0.90 (0.77-1.05)	0.194	1.09 (0.95-1.24)
rs7963168	IM	intergenic	TBX5	1.49x10 ⁻⁸	0.52(0.40-0.67)	0.08	1.17 (1.01-1.36)	0.28	1.07 (0.94-1.22)
rs17512210	15	intron	SHISA6	2.21x10 ⁻⁵	0.56(0.43-0.73)	0.851	1.01 (0.86-1.17)	0.049	0.87 (0.76-0.99)
rs9381682	18	intergenic	-	2.48x10 ⁻⁵	0.45 (0.31-0.65)	0.156	0.87 (0.69-1.09)	7.38x10 ⁻⁴	0.72 (0.59-0.87)
rs11127292	20	intron	MYT1L	2.60x10 ⁻⁵	0.37 (0.23-0.60)	0.039	0.76 (0.60-0.97)	1.76x10 ⁻⁴	0.67 (0.54-0.82)
rs12770855	32	intergenic	ZNF438	4.05x10 ⁻⁵	0.41 (0.27-0.63)	0.149	0.85 (0.67-1.07)	0.001	0.71 (0.58-0.87)
rs10821659	33	intron	ANK3	4.06x10 ⁻⁵	0.58 (0.44-0.75)	0.110	0.88 (0.73-1.03)	6.22x10 ⁻⁴	0.79 (0.70-0.90)
rs265015	34	intron	UNC5C	4.12x10 ⁻⁵	0.41 (0.26-0.63)	0.016	1.41 (1.06-1.88)	0.852	0.97 (0.77-1.23)
rs9565180	37	intron	LMO7	4.53x10 ⁻⁵	0.54 (0.41-0.73)	0.242	1.13 (0.94-1.35)	0.267	0.91 (0.79-1.06)
rs6043433	43	intron	MACROD2	5.00x10 ⁻⁵	0.52 (0.38-0.71)	0.288	1.11 (0.91-1.36)	0.899	0.89 (0.76-1.06)
rs6131711	IM	intron	MACROD2	9.92x10 ⁻⁸	1.87 (1.45-2.83)	0.596	1.05 (0.91-1.23)	9x10 ⁻⁴	1.25 (1.09-1.42)
rs11602757	57	intron	LRG_164	7.15x10 ⁻⁵	2.77 (1.64-4.68)	0.795	0.95 (0.74-1.23)	0.077	1.22 (0.97-1.53)
rs981524	67	intron	AKAP6	7.94x10 ⁻⁵	1.98 (1.40-2.81)	0.139	1.18 (0.99-1.42)	0.001	1.30 (1.11-15.52)

Table 1. SNPs selected for replication in our GWAS study of fibromyalgia

SNPs are listed in ascending order according to allelic association GWAS p-value (with the exception of the three imputed SNPs). Type indicates the relative position of the SNP with respect to the nearest gene, and gene provides the gene in which the SNP is located or the nearest gene in a 500 kb window. IM: imputed SNP. Type: SNP location upon the gene according to WGA viewer classification; \ddagger rs2901761 was not in HWE in controls (p-value = 0.005).

Table

Table 4. Allele distribution of NRXN3_DEL among cases and controls in the studied cohorts.

ALLELES	CON (%)	FM (%)	FM (cl1+cl3) (%)
NoDel	587 (65.9)	1668(61.4)	1184 (60.4)
Del	303 (34.1)	1048(38.6)	776 (39.6)

Del: deleted; NoDel: non-deleted; CON: con_VH + con_SAL; FM: FM_discovery + FM_replication; CI1: cluster 1; Cl3: cluster 3.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

SUPPLEMENTARY METHODS

Genome-wide association study

Quality control

Quality control (QC) was performed with PLINK software. In order to minimize platform bias, QC steps were executed separately in the FM and control datasets, taking only into account the SNPs that overlapped between the two datasets (582,892 SNPs). Samples were checked for origin, heterozygosity, genotyping rate, inbreeding and gender. Sample filtered datasets were then filtered at the SNP level considering genotyping rate (\geq 96%), Hardy Weinberg Equilibrium (p>0.0001) and minimum allele frequency (MAF) \geq 5%. After QC at the sample and SNP levels, the FM dataset included 308 cases (300 females and 8 males) and 513,897 SNPs, and the control dataset 395 controls (203 females and 192 males) and 512,615 SNPs. Then, FM and control datasets were merged with 505,454 overlapping SNPs. Since 97% of the FM samples were females we only included female controls to have a gender matched control set.

Imputation

For GWAS regions showing positive signals, we performed imputation in a window span of 100kb with Impute v2 (http://mathgen.stats.ox.ac.uk/impute/impute_v2.html) (Supplementary methods), considering an interval buffer region of 500 kb and using as reference panels 1000Genomes and Hapmap3 CEU data. Association analysis of imputed data was performed with SNPTEST (http://mathgen.stats.ox.ac.uk/genetics), which allows dealing with genotype uncertainty due to the imputation process. For this we used the score approach based on missing data likelihood score test. Only SNPs with an Infoscore >0.8 were taken into consideration.

Cluster analysis

A full description of the cluster analysis is provided in ref. 9. Briefly, the full 1500 fibromyalgia samples cohort was randomly divided in two sets. The cluster analysis of the clinical variables was performed in one of the sample sets and validated in the second set. Then, two sets of variables were used to score all samples, which were a priori divided into three clusters by K-means analysis. A post-hoc labeling of the clusters based on their clinical characteristics was applied. A few individuals could not be classified into clusters as some of the necessary variables were not available. The cluster distribution of the samplesfrom each cohort is given below:

	Cluster1	Cluster2	Cluster3
FM_discovery (291)	66(22.7%)	29(10%)	196 (67.3%)
FM_Replication(1135)	217(19.1%)	328(28.9%)	590 (52%)
Joint (1398)	283(20.2%)	357(25.6%)	758 (54.2)

CNV analysis: WWOX Breakpoints detection

PCR conditions

Primers (Table S1) were designed with Primer3 software taking into account aCGH positive probes coordinates and overlapping CNVs described in the Database of Genomic Variants. We took advantage of data available in Conrad et al work and included, as positive controls, HapMap samples with known genotypes for the CNV (Two copies: NA07019, NA06994; One copy: NA12056, NA12145, NA12864; Zero copies: NA06991; NA12761).

Table S1. Primers used for WWOX breakpoints detection.

CNV	Primers (5'-3')	Product size (bp)
WWOX	WWOX_F1: TGGGTAGGAATCCTGCAGAC	Depending on primers
	WWOX_R1: TGCCTAAAAGCACACACTGC	combinations
	WWOX_R2: GGGCATCCCAGTTTTCTACC	
	WWOX_R3: CCTGCTTCCTGAACATTCCT	

PCR reaction was performed following the PCR program below:

2' 94ºC and 30 cycles: 30" 94ºC; 30" 60ºC; 45" 68ºC; 7' 68ºC

Mix components:

50 ng DNA; 10x Roche[®] PCR reaction buffer + Mg^{+2} ; 0.2 mM dNTPs; 0.4 pM/µl each primer 0.1 U/µl *Taq* Polymerase; H₂O to reach a final volume of 25 µl.

Removal of PCR primers and reagents

5 μ I PCR product of homozygous deleted samples were cleaned up with 2 μ I of USB[®] Exo-SAP-IT[®] following an incubation of 15' at 37^oC plus 15' at 80^oC.

Sequencing PCR

1 μ l of PCR product after Exosap, was added to a mix of 1 μ l Big Dye Terminator[®] v3.1 (Applied Biosystems), 1.5 μ l 5X Buffer, 0.5 μ l of either reverse or forward primer (10 μ M) and 6 μ l H₂O,

and a sequencing PCR reaction was performed following the PCR program below (30 cycles): 30" 95°C; 30" 50°C; 3' 60°C

Purification sequencing PCR

Sequencing PCR products were purified with sepharose (Sephadex[®]-G50) columns. Briefly, 800 μ l of sepharose were pipetted into a column and centrifuged at 1000 g for one minute for sepharose compactation. Flow-through was discarded and 10 μ l of water were added to the sepharose column and centrifuged for one minute again at 1000g. Finally, the column was introduced in a new eppendorf, the sequencing PCR loaded into the column and centrifuged for 1 min at 1000g. The purified PCR was run in a capillary sequenced (3730XL Applied Biosystems).

Sequence analysis and blast to human genome

Sequencing results were analyzed with CLC workbench with standard settings. Only clean sequences were selected for blast analysis in UCSC Genome Browser.

CNVs genotyping

PCR conditions

PCR conditions and primers for CNVs genotyping are summarized in Tables S2 and S3 below.

Table S2.	PCR c	conditions	for	CNV	genotyping.	Grey	cells	correspond	to	shared	components	in
between r	reaction	ns										

	ACACA	GALNTL6	WWOX	MYO5B	PTPRD	NRXN3
PCR program	2′ 94ºC					
(30 cycles)	30″ 94ºC					
	30″ 60ºC	30″ 63ºC	30″ 61ºC	30″ 62ºC	30″ 60ºC	30″ 60ºC
	1′ 72ºC	30″ 72ºC	30″ 72ºC	30″ 72ºC	30″ 72ºC	30″ 72ºC
	7′ 72ºC	25′ 72ºC	7′ 72ºC	7′ 72ºC	7′ 72ºC	7′ 72ºC
Mix components						
50 ng DNA	-	75 ng	-	-	-	-
10x Roche [®] PCR reaction						
buffer+Mg ⁺²	-	-	-	-	-	-
dNTPs (mM)	0.125	0.06	0.125	0.2	0.2	0.15
Del Primers (pM)	0.40	0.02	0.4	0.4	0.24	0.4
Non-Del primers (pM)	0.24	0.032	0.4	0.4	0.24	0.2
Taq Polymerase (U)	0.1	0.06	0.1	0.06	0.06	0.02
H_2O to volume of 25 μl	-	-	-	-	-	15µl

Allele	Primers (5'-3')	Product size (bp)
ACAC Del	ACACA_DelF: GGCCTCCTCTTCTAGCTGTTG	1164
	ACACA_DelR: AACAGGTGCCCAATAAATGC	
ACACA Non-Del	ACACA_F: GAGCCCATTAATCCAGAAAGG	449
	ACACA_R: TGACTTAGTGCCCATTCAAGG	
GALNTL6 Del	FF_Mi_A: [6FAM]GCAAGTAATGCCCAAGGAAA	250
	RF_Mi_del2: AGAGCATAAACCTCACAGGAC	
GALNTL6 Non-Del	FF_Mi_wt: [6FAM]TGGTAATGAGCAGAGGAAAGG	283
	RF_Mi_wt5: TGAGCACTTACCCTGTCTGC	
WWOX Del	WWOX_DelF: ATCTGGCCATGTCCTCATTT	192
	WWOX_DelR: TGTGACCTGATAACCGCTGA	
WWOX Non-Del	WWOX_F: AATGGGAATCTTTGCCTGTG	217
	WWOX_R: ATGGCAACTGACTTGGGAAG	
MYO5B Del	MYO5B_DelF: AACAGGCTGTCTCTTCCATGA	234
	MYO5B_DelR: CAGGGGTGGTTAGAATGAGG	
MYO5B Non-Del	MYO5B_F: GAATGCATTTTGTCCAGCAGT	201
	MYO5B_R: CTCATAGAGGCGGTGTTCTTG	
PTPRD Del	PTPRD_DelF: GGGTGGTGGAAGGTGGTTAT	450 Del
	PTPRD_DelR: GGTCTGGCATTTTGACATGA	980 Non-Del
PTPRD Non-Del	<pre>PTPRD _F: GCCAATTTCAGATCCTCAGC</pre>	219
	<pre>PTPRD _R: TTAGTGGCGTTCACACATGG</pre>	
NRXN3 Del	NRXN3_FDel: CAGTCTTGACTGCTGGGTGAAC	466
	NRXN3_R: [6FAM]GTGACTGCTGATGAGCCACGC	
NRXN3 Non-Del	NRXN3_FNodel: GTGAGCACTCGATCCAGCATAA	350
	NRXN3_R: [6FAM]GTGACTGCTGATGAGCCACGC	

Table S3. Primers for CNV genotyping PCR reactions

PCR products detection

PTPRD PCR products were loaded in a 2% agarose gel and visualized with a UV transilluminator (Gel Doc[®] (Bio Rad)). WWOX and MYO5B PCR products were loaded in a 3% agarose gel and visualized with a UV transilluminator (Gel Doc[®] (Bio Rad)).

GALNTL6 CNV and NRXN3_DEL were genotyped by multiplex PCR with 5' FAM modification, followed by capillary electrophoresis in a 3730XL automatic sequencer and analysis with the Gene Mapper package (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA). Analysis was performed with the Gene Mapper package (Applied Biosystems). Samples showing peak intensities below 1000 fluorescent units or ratios of deleted allele to non-deleted allele <0.2 or >5 were not considered for analysis. For capillary detection, NRXN3_DEL PCR reactions were diluted at 1:15, and 1 μ l of PCR dilution was then added to 9 μ l of a formamide/ROX mixture (950 μ l + 20 μ l per 100 samples), and samples were loaded into 3730XL. GALNTL6 PCR products were not diluted: 1 μ l of the PCR was added to the formamide/ROX mixture.

NRXN3_del was also assessed with 3 SNPs included in a Veracode assay. Two of the SNPs were located within the deleted region (rs12894142 and rs12100748), and we designed a third SNP assay (NRXN3del) with each of its extension probes flanking the breakpoints of the CNV. A combination of the results for these SNPs was used to assess the genotype. A sample was considered as homozygous deleted when failing in both SNPs included in the deleted region and amplyfing in the breakpoints SNP; an heterozygous sample for the CNV was defined by presenting genotype for the three SNPs (the two inside the deletion having to be mandatorily homozygous); the homozygous non deleted samples were characterized by the failure of the breakpoints SNP and presenting genotype at the SNPs inside the CNV region (being either homozygous or heterozygous).

SNP	P-value	Chromosome	Coordinate (Hg18)	Gene/Region
rs12556003	2,14x10-6	Х	138743267	MCF2
rs12704506	3,20x10-6	7	89621311	STEAP1/STEAP2
rs11923054	3,52x10-6	3	167051769	ZBBX
rs2858166	3,61x10-6	Х	100875273	ARMCX6
rs10782344	3,63x10-6	6	156778660	RP11-518I13.1
rs1998709	7,62x10-6	10	95884574	PLCE1
rs2194390	8,06x10-6	2	50902931	NRXN1
rs2701106	8,94x10-6	12	114697547	TBX5
rs9525923	1,11x10-5	13	44783715	RP11-478K15.2
rs1347532	1,12x10-5	16	60615455	RP11-5106.1
rs12486010	1,53x10-5	3	166942627	ZBBX
rs7616572	1,61x10-5	3	167046536	ZBBX
rs10894241	1,75x10-5	11	130635852	AP003486.1
rs11925091	2,00x10-5	3	166944651	ZBBX
rs17512210	2,21x10-5	17	11230466	SHISA6
rs5951332	2,35x10-5	Х	100743826	ARMCX4
rs7060491	2.35x10-5	Х	100754149	ARMCX4
rs9381682	2.48x10-5	6	48620238	AL391538.1
rs17689185	2.50x10-5	16	77525081	AC025284.1
rs11127292	2.60x10-5	2	2029943	MYT1L
rs6523526	2.64x10-5	X	100917910	ARMCX2
rs3784820	2.76x10-5	16	1569252	IFT140
rs6621083	2 81x10-5	X	100760626	OTTHUMG0000022030
rs10432656	2,82x10-5	2	33375032	OTTHUMG00000152118
rs2071222	3 00x10-5	×	100617372	
rs11971008	3 05x10-5	7	82136025	
rs858939	3 10x10-5	2	50971951	NRXN1
rs11187789	3 23x10-5	10	95871655	RP11-162K11 4
rs13068321	3 46x10-5	3	167013777	ZRRX
rs963618	3 79x10-5	X	100743037	ARMCXA
rs9296606	3 91x10-5	6	48640714	ΔΙ 391538 1
rs12770855	4 05x10-5	10	31120198	7NF438
rs10821659	4 06x10-5	10	61793424	ANK3
rs265015	4 12x10-5	4	96360796	UNC5C
rs882847	4 39x10-5	17	4382729	SPNS3
rs10507243	4 43x10-5	12	114708798	TBX5
rs9565180	4 53x10-5	13	76231470	OTTHUMG0000017093
rs4680657	4 61x10-5	3	166894537	AC112501 2
rs1994979	4 68x10-5	17	4350990	SPNS3
rs259154	4 72x10-5	7	89626822	OTTHUMG0000065036
rs13238853	4.73x10-5	7	135959346	OTTHUMG00000155618
rs4148965	4 75x10-5	18	9109484	NDUEV2
rs6043433	5 00x10-5	20	15659486	MACROD2
rs6537129	5 49x10-5	4	143779613	INPP4B
rs9299090	5 68x10-5	9	9264932	AI 353733 1
rs5951269	5.99x10-5	X	100778274	ARMCX4
rs11869601	6.19x10-5	17	11234035	SHISA6
rs9410632	6.27x10-5	9	90400909	CTSI 3
rs259152	6.42x10-5		89626611	OTTHUMG0000065036
rs8034595	6 43x10-5	15	96719220	AC016251 2
rs49866/9	6 43x10-5	¥	100736761	
rs265018	6 52x10-5	1	96363/07	
rs70227/0	6 61v10-5	- Q	90302497	
rs2009E2	6 62v10 E	Q	20402432	
rs10507833	6 97x10-5	13	76226139	OTTHUMG00000103013

Table S4. SNPs showing the strongest allelic associations (p-value <10-4)</th>

rs4910595	7,15x10-5	11	4049129	STIM1
rs11602757	7,15x10-5	11	4053881	STIM1
rs2920137	7,15x10-5	11	4079318	STIM1
rs6719219	7,19x10-5	2	2010779	MYT1L
rs1938204	7,24x10-5	6	48787015	AL391538.1
rs6083017	7,28x10-5	20	23119766	RP4-737E23.4
rs12588013	7,29x10-5	14	62724837	AL390816.1
rs9643612	7,39x10-5	8	50430756	RP11-738G5.1
rs2065703	7,53x10-5	20	31966698	CDK5RAP1
rs7314743	7,55x10-5	12	114718647	TBX5
rs2009626	7,84x10-5	3	187600404	RP11-44H4.1
rs981524	7,94x10-5	14	33186257	ΑΚΑΡ6
rs6778044	8,16x10-5	3	187594092	RP11-44H4.1
rs5951340	8,24x10-5	Х	100771055	ARMCX4
rs1323851	8,36x10-5	1	64450437	ROR1
rs12744386	8,80x10-5	1	24168019	HMGCL
rs6966421	9,18x10-5	7	155329530	CNPY1
rs6556373	9,25x10-5	5	158359476	EBF1
rs2997370	9,42x10-5	6	48778106	AL391538.1
rs10184672	9,42x10-5	2	11198448	AC062028.1
rs2009627	9,68x10-5	3	187600359	RP11-44H4.1
rs5991939	9,73x10-5	Х	100712422	ARMCX4

SNPs are listed on descending order based on p-value. SNPs selected for replication appear in bold.

Chromosome	Cytoband	Gene	Start	End	Probes	Log2ratio_Dir ect	Log2rat io_DS	Pools
4	q34.1	GALNTL6	173661791	173666272	8	-1.00	1.20	FM_3
7	q36.3	WDR60	158400565	158402804	9	0.48	-0.32	FM_3
8	p21.2	DOCK5	25122432	25126488	6	-1.58	1.21	FM_2
9	p23	PTPRD	10394403	10395130	3	-2.22	1.83	FM_2
14	q31.1	NRXN3	79175885	79184422	18	-0.54	0.58	FM_3
16	q23.1	WWOX	76929398	76941774	11	-0.46	0.54	FM_3
20	p13	SIRPB1	1511432	1531941	28	-0.41	0.47	FM_2

TableS5: Analysis of copy number variants (CNV) in pooled samples of fibromyalgia

Results are based on hybridization with the 400k-CNV aCGH; genomic locations are based on build Hg 18. DS: Dye swap.

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES LEGENDS:

Supplementary figure 1: Workflow indicating which sample sets were used in each analysis.

Supplementary figure 2: Power calculation graph. For each OR, the given power for three different minor allele frequency variants is calculated (given our sample size). OR are represented in the X axis, and power is represented in the Y axis.

Supplementary figure 3: *SNTG2* expression levels (as assessed by one probe) for the three rs11127292 genotypes in twins' lymphoblastyoid cell lines (GENVAR software).

Supplementary Materials: figures, tables Click here to download high resolution image





