

# The Frequency of Fibromyalgia in Female Patients with Overactive Bladder Syndrome and Its Relationship to Disease Severity

Esin Cakir<sup>1</sup>,  
Selcen Kanyilmaz<sup>1</sup>,  
Mehmet Gokhan Culha<sup>2</sup>,  
Omer Kuru<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
<sup>2</sup> Department of Urology  
Prof. Dr. Cemil Taşçıoğlu City Hospital,  
Istanbul, Türkiye

## KEY MESSAGE

Fibromyalgia was markedly more frequent in women with OAB and was linked to higher patient-reported OAB severity; however, fibromyalgia severity itself did not correlate with urinary symptom severity.

## Overactive bladder, fibromyalgia and central sensitization: a cross-sectional clinical study

### BACKGROUND & AIM

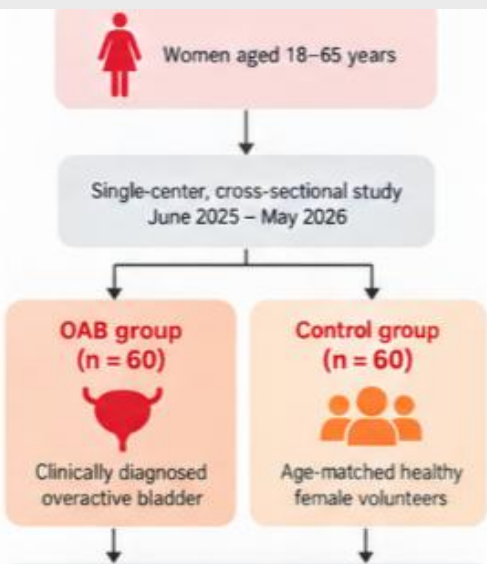
• The pathophysiology of OAB may involve alterations in sensory processing that extend beyond the lower urinary tract.  
• FM is a central sensitization syndrome with widespread pain and somatic symptoms.  
Aim: to determine FM frequency in women with OAB and evaluate associations with urinary symptom severity.

### METHODS

#### Assessment

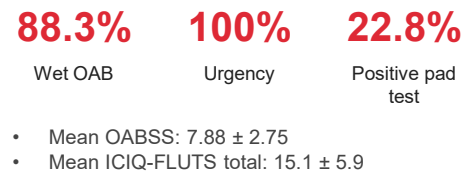
- 2016 ACR FM criteria
- FIQR • OABSS
- ICIQ-FLUTS
- 3-day bladder diary
- 1-hour pad test
- DSM-5 SSS

### STUDY POPULATION

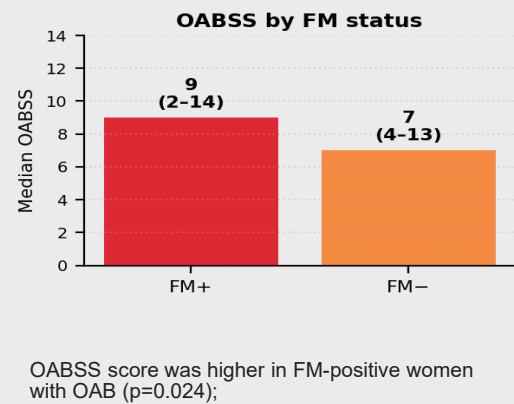
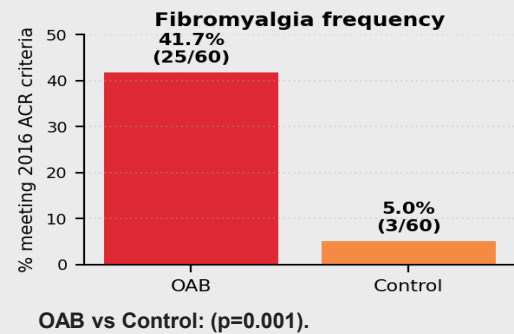


Exclusions: pelvic surgery, uncontrolled DM, neurological disease, pure SUI, BPS /ICS, active UTI, urinary malignancy.

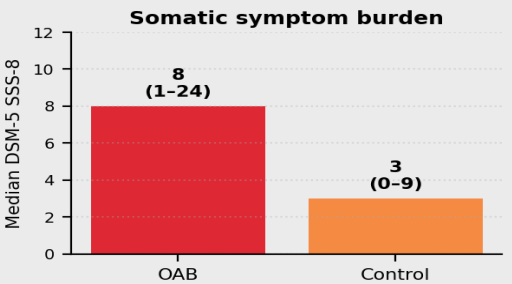
### OAB CLINICAL PROFILE



### MAIN RESULTS



### SOMATIC SYMPTOM FINDINGS



- DSM-5 SSS scores were higher in OAB (p=0.001).
- In OAB pt.s, SSS score correlated with ICIQ-FLUTS scores.
- SSS score was associated with wet OAB subtype.

### INTERPRETATION

The presence of FM may amplify the perceived burden of urgency/OAB symptoms, potentially through central sensitization, without a parallel increase in objective leakage or diary parameters.

### CONCLUSION

- FM was more frequent in women with OAB than in healthy controls.
- FM presence was associated with greater patient-reported OAB severity.
- FIQR severity did not correlate with OAB symptom severity.
- Assessment of OAB may benefit from considering coexisting chronic pain and somatic symptom burden.

Limitations: single-center, cross-sectional design; limited sample size; BMI differed between groups.

Selected references: Abrams et al., 2002; Wolfe et al., 2016; Goldberg et al., 2022; Reynolds et al., 2016.