

Prevalence of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Chronic Fatigue Within Families of CFS Patients

Journal: Journal of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Volume: 13 Issue: 1,
Page Range: 3-13

Authors and affiliations:

Rosemary A. Underhill MB, BS, MRCOG, FRCSE, Consultant, New Jersey
CFS Association, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 07458, petro8888@aol.com
Ruth L. O'Gorman, Clinical Physicist, Department of Neuroimaging,
King's College Hospital, London, UK, spimrog@iop.kcl.ac.uk

The prevalence of CFS (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome) and chronic fatigue were investigated in family members of CFS patients using a questionnaire-based study.

Significant differences were seen between the prevalence of CFS in all groups of family members relative to the published community prevalence of 0.422%, (spouses/partners: 3.2%, $p < 0.001$; offspring: 5.1%, $p < .001$; parents and siblings: 1.1%, $p < 0.02$; second and third degree blood relatives 0.8%, $p < 0.02$.)

The prevalence of CFS was higher in genetically unrelated household contacts and in nonresident genetic relatives than in the community, indicating that both household contact and genetic relationship are risk factors for CFS.

Keywords: Chronic fatigue syndrome and epidemiology, family prevalence, infectious agent, genetic susceptibility

[This article is currently listed as being in a prepublication status. After it is published, the full text will be available for a fee at <https://www.haworthpress.com/store/ArticleAbstract.asp?sid=WBWK0424UUGB8G46VS4SC18B9RCD9D8B&ID=84783>