Break Free From Fibromyalgia

NOTE FROM TERRY:

I am honored to have Dr. Jacob Teitelbaum, M.D. as our guest writer for this Terry Talks Nutrition. “Dr. T” is an acknowledged expert on fibromyalgia (FM) and chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS). He is the author of From Fatigued to Fantastic!, Pain Free: 1, 2, 3, and The Fatigue and Fibromyalgia Solution. Having had it himself, he has dedicated his career to finding effective treatments that combine nutrients, natural pain management, healthy sleep, exercise, and adrenal support to help those affected with FM or CFS recover their energy and recapture a vibrant, healthy life. You can contact Dr. Teitelbaum at appointments@endfatigue.com for more information.

Fibromyalgia is not unusual.

The muscle pain, insomnia, brain fog, and fatigue of fibromyalgia can happen to anyone – especially when you are constantly stressed and required to spend more energy than your body can create. This can include physical stresses such as infections, sleep disorders, hormonal deficiencies, and pregnancies. It can also be caused by situational stresses such as a divorce, a death in the family, or a job loss. Often it is caused by a combination of physical and situational stresses.

But even after a stressful situation appears to have been resolved, pain and dysfunction can linger. This is like tripping a circuit breaker in your home by plugging in too many appliances. The breaker needs to be reset even after you’ve unplugged them. The circuit breaker in fibromyalgia is called the hypothalamus, an almond sized control center in the brain that regulates sleep, hormones, and autonomic functions like blood pressure and gut activity.

Finding a way to overcome fibromyalgia can be a challenge, as most physicians are simply not trained in treating the illness. But effective treatment is available.

Here’s how to get well.

I have been working with people who suffer from fibromyalgia (FM) or chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) my entire professional life. Having had these myself (they knocked me out of medical school and left me homeless for a year, until I figured out how to recover) I have dedicated the last 40 years to researching this illness and making effective treatment available for everybody.

From these explorations came a health protocol that I’ve called “SHINE®.” This acronym refers to the essentials of what is needed to begin a path toward healing. Our published double-blind placebo-controlled study showed that 91 percent of people improved with an average 90 percent increase in quality of life (a remarkable P < .0001 versus placebo, for those that are statistics oriented).

Additionally, there are some nutrients and botanicals that have proven results in addressing the symptoms of fibromyalgia.

**Curcumin for Pain Relief**

Curcumin from turmeric has been shown in numerous studies to effectively relieve pain.

In a double-blind crossover trial, participants started taking curcumin 2 days before a physical workout and continued for 3 days after. Those taking curcumin noted moderate to large reductions in pain and slightly increased performance (due to the pain reduction). The exercises included gluteal stretches, squat jumps, and single-leg jumps, to get in a variety of controlled movements to replicate the wide range of motions that can cause pain during a workout.

Another recent study looked at the effects of curcumin for adult recreational cyclists. While the physical parameters were harder to judge statistically, participants in the

Fibromyalgia is characterized by widespread pain throughout the body (with certain tender points where pain is especially acute), fatigue, brain fog, mood imbalances, and sleep disorders. It can be notoriously difficult for people to find a practitioner who can correctly diagnose and treat it, but once you do, treatment can be very effective, if one uses a comprehensive medicine approach.

The botanicals outlined here – curcumin, boswellia, turmerones from turmeric essential oil, and frankincense oil – all address the symptoms of fibromyalgia. This combination will:

- Reduce pain and damaging inflammation
- Rejuvenate your energy
- Balance your mood and mental outlook
- Clear out “brain fog” and restore clarity

**HERE IS THE FORMULA I SUGGEST:**

To help address the fatigue, brain fog, and sleep disorders associated with fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome, I recommend taking high absorption curcumin, a uniquely standardized boswellia resin extract, turmerones from turmeric oil, and frankincense oil twice daily.

**Terry’s Bottom Line**

Fibromyalgia is not unusual.
The SHINE® Protocol for Fibromyalgia Relief

SHINE identifies five key areas related to the body that, when addressed in combination, provide a blueprint for promoting optimal energy. Tending to these can help you maintain healthy energy levels when you are well, and can help support recovery when dealing with fibromyalgia and CFS.

• **SLEEP**: Get adequate sleep, preferably eight to nine hours a night. Sleep replenishes the body’s energy and heals its muscles. Sleep must include all 4 stages, plus REM (rapid eye movement) phase. Inadequate time in these deeper sleep stages will leave you exhausted and in pain. Your sleep center is not working in these illnesses, and therefore you’ll need sleep support.

• **HORMONES**: Get tested for hormone deficiency – not just sex hormones, but thyroid and adrenal as well. Hormone deficiencies can contribute to fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome. If symptoms are suggestive, these hormones should be treated even if the blood tests are normal.

• **IMMUNITY**: Maximize your immune response with natural interventions. The lack of restorative sleep in CFS/FM leads to dysfunctional immune systems. Underlying viral, bacterial, bowel, sinus and yeast infections are common and can be a contributing cause or result of CFS/FM.

• **NUTRITION**: To maintain normal health and optimal energy levels, you need to be sure your body is getting a proper balance and optimal levels of nutrients, particularly as nutritional deficiencies can result from CFS/FM. Easily absorbable forms of protein, like whey protein, vitamin B-12, magnesium, acetyl L-carnitine, glutathione, and iodine, as well as your basic A, B, C and D vitamins are especially vulnerable to depletion.

• **EXERCISE**: Exercise as able. After 10 weeks on the 4 steps above, you will be able to slowly increase your exercise – without feeling wiped out the next day!

Of course, that last point – getting exercise, or even having the desire for exercise – seems like a tall order when you feel wiped out the next day, your muscles hurt and your energy levels are low because of fibromyalgia. But the botanical combination I’ll outline here can address the inflammation, pain, mental outlook, and in that way help energy levels.

curcumin group reported feeling “better than usual” and less stressed in the training days – 2 hours of endurance cycling – versus those taking the placebo – even though the sessions were the same for both groups.

A four-day study featuring curcumin assessed reduction of delayed onset muscle soreness and muscle damage in healthy adults following downhill running – a standard muscle inflammation physical test, and certainly one that can test physical limits.

The pain score in the curcumin group was 17 percent lower compared to the placebo group, and there was less incidence of muscle injury per MRI evidence. Not surprisingly, markers of inflammation and muscle damage tended to be lower in the curcumin group following exercise as well.

Constant stress erodes the ability of the body to produce a protein called brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF). BDNF helps create neurons (important cells in the brain and nervous system) and maintains the existing ones. Aside from that, BDNF is an essential element for brain plasticity (how the brain adapts and learns), and other major functions. BDNF is generally deficient in those with Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and Huntington’s diseases, and issues with the gene for BDNF can also be a component of depression, anxiety, and memory deficits. Curcumin has been shown to significantly increase BDNF after even a short period of use.

Curcumin helps circumvent the conditions of stress by protecting BDNF levels and reducing the stress response. It can help you overcome the fatigue, anxiety, and pain so common to fibromyalgia and help you recapture the emotional and physical resilience you need to get back on track.

Some researchers have noted connections between rheumatoid arthritis and fibromyalgia. Curcumin, specifically the curcumin I recommend, has been shown to address that condition, too.

A clinical study focused on the effects of 500 mg twice daily of an enhanced absorption curcumin combined with turmeric essential oil versus the prescription drug diclofenac sodium (one brand name is Voltaren®) 50 mg twice daily, or a combination of the two in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. The curcumin group had the best results – the most reduction in joint pain and swelling – and no adverse effects. By contrast, 14 percent of the participants in the drug group stopped the test due to side effects.

**Turmerones – Anti-Inflammatory**

The curcumin I recommend is blended with turmeric essential oil, which helps increase absorption. Turmeric essential oil contains turmerones (specifically ar-turmerone) which...
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have actions similar to curcumin. In fact, turmerones are a major area of study and research because they have such strong anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer power.

Additionally, turmerones have been found to increase superoxide dismutase and glutathione levels – natural antioxidants produced by the body that have incredible cell-protecting power and could be considered “fountains of youth” for their abilities to keep us healthy regardless of age.

For cognitive health, ar-turmerone may provide a huge advantage. Research shows that it suppresses beta amyloid, a protein that is responsible for the plaques and tangles in the brain that stop neural connections, and inhibits the inflammatory cytokines and pathways that cause damage to the brain. In other words, it may help prevent Alzheimer’s.

This is primarily due to the ability of turmerones to stop inflammatory cascades in the brain. I don’t think I could ever overemphasize just how much inflammation drives our diseases, including the fatigue and accompanying brain fog of fibromyalgia.

**Boswellia – Reduce Pain and Inflammation**

Unlike conventional drugs, which usually target only a single molecular pathway, boswellia affects multiple pathways in the body. But one of its most important benefits is probably its ability to modulate a particular inflammation pathway called the 5-LOX (5-lipoxygenase) pathway, which leads to significant reduction in inflammation and pain throughout the body.

Combined with curcumin, boswellia has been shown to relieve osteoarthritis pain better than prescription drugs: 64 percent in the herbal group versus 29 percent in the drug group saw a dramatic improvement.

And because boswellia inhibits proinflammatory cytokines, it doesn’t just stop pain, it stops the actual damage in joints and muscles.

Choosing the right boswellia is critical. Like many botanicals, boswellia contains specific compounds that are associated with the herb’s beneficial effects. One of boswellia’s most powerful components is acetyl-11-keto-B-boswellic acid, popularly known as AKBA. In fact, in most boswellia research, AKBA is cited as a primary reason the extract works so well to relieve pain and inflammation, treat respiratory conditions, and may even protect the brain against stroke.

Unstandardized boswellia can have as little as one percent AKBA. For the best efficacy, it is important to have a minimum of 10 percent AKBA plus other helpful boswellic acids.

A balanced approach is best. I recommend looking for a boswellia extract that is standardized so that you’re getting at least 10 percent AKBA and virtually no beta-boswellic acids. This way, you get a true, complete boswellia with all of the good components you need (but not at artificially high levels) with none of the potentially dangerous amounts of beta-boswellic acid.

**Frankincense – Balance Cortisol Levels**

In addition to resin extracts, boswellia is also the source of an essential oil – frankincense oil. It is the subject of intensive scientific study for a variety of health applications.

Scientific research with constituents of frankincense oil shows that it may balance cortisol levels and boost BDNF, the same brain protein that curcumin preserves. So
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aside from being an anti-inflammatory, frankincense can regulate the HPA axis in a way that prevents stress, anxiety, and emotional fatigue from taking hold.

You Can Overcome Fibromyalgia
I know from personal experience that FM/CFS are frustrating conditions. It’s not unusual for people to try many approaches before discovering the one that works best for them. But don’t give in to despair and hopelessness. The start of the road back to better health is found in the proper application of clinically-validated nutrients and botanicals, a review of the SHINE® protocol, and sensible exercise. Activity is critical for a mentally and physically healthy life and outlook, and will be much easier to do once your energy levels increase with treatment!

I have treated thousands of people with this illness, and I do both in-person and phone consultations with people worldwide. (See contact information in bio) Research and clinical experience have shown that 85 percent of people improve significantly, and usually markedly, with the proper treatment.

The bottom line is that you can get your life back!

Curcumin, boswellia, turmeric essential oil, and frankincense oil promote your health – they don’t just block an unwanted condition. All of these botanicals reduce the oxidative stresses and inflammation at a cellular level and heal muscle damage, stop pain, and help you feel re-energized. You owe it to yourself to explore these natural ingredients for fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome. I think they could make a world of difference and help you feel physically and mentally vibrant again.

When in doubt, always consult your physician or healthcare practitioner. This article is intended to provide you with information to maintain your health.

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