

To the Editor:

Regarding the editorial of Hal Blatman, MD, on fibromyalgia (AJPM 2002; 12:67-68), a mention was made of several possible physical perpetuating factors including hormone deficiencies, opportunistic infections, sleep disorders, and nutritional inadequacies. However, there is no mention at all of psychological overtones. I have over 550 fibromyalgia patients in my practice, and almost all eerily present with virtually the same story. That is, (i) there is a history of sexual abuse at an early age followed by (ii) sexual abuse (zin the teens. Many describe a pervious case of rape. Following this traumatic history, they often marry early, usually before age 20, to a physically abusive alcoholic husband. They commonly will leave that husband and end up with someone who is not physically abusive but is emotionally distant. These women then represent in their 40s with unresolved psychological issues, poor self-esteem, and an inability to express emotion appropriately. This then presents itself as the physical symptoms of fibromyalgia.

- Randall L. Oliver, MD
 Evansville, Indiana

zin = in

**GALLEY PROOF
 RUSH RETURN**

AUTHOR'S INITIALS REQUIRED

- 1. OK (RO)
- 2. NOT OK _____
- 3. MAKE CORRECTIONS ON PROOF

PLEASE FAX APPROVAL OR CORRECTIONS
 IMMEDIATELY
 (806) 352-1173
 RETURN GALLEY TO AJPM