

## Fibro Fact Sheet

- **Fibromyalgia Syndrome (Fibro)** is also referred to as Fibromyalgia, FMS and FM. Fibromyalgia is pronounced Fi-bro-my-AL-gee-ah. FibroAction prefer the abbreviation, Fibro, as it is easy to pronounce, spell and remember.
- The number of people with Fibromyalgia in the UK has never been measured, but international prevalence statistics suggest that 2-4.5% of the population is a likely conservative estimate. This translates to **1.2 to 2.7 million people in the UK** alone. The prevalence of Fibro in the UK has historically been hugely under reported.
- Fibro can be triggered by something as simple as a whiplash injury.
- Fibro can affect people of any age, from children to the elderly.
- Fibro has been shown to have more of an impact on patients' lives than many other forms of widespread pain and chronic illnesses, including rheumatoid arthritis and osteoporosis.
- There are currently thousands of people in the UK unable to return to work because of Fibro and a lack of treatment for it.
- Most doctors will see cases of Fibromyalgia during their career, yet even consultant rheumatologists, who usually diagnose Fibro, have often had little or no specific training in the condition.
- Changes in the brains of people with Fibro can be seen using PET scans and fMRIs, yet many people insist it cannot be tested for and debate the validity of the condition on this basis alone.
- Pfizer, the world's largest research based pharmaceutical company, developed a drug called Lyrica (Pregabalin) that was the first drug to be officially licensed for Fibro by the US Food & Drug Administration. Pfizer spent \$27million promoting Lyrica in its first year, but Deutsche Bank estimates that sales of the drug in 2008 will be \$1.7billion.
- There are many treatments that can be used to manage Fibro symptoms, yet a large proportion of Fibro patients in the UK are told that there is nothing that can be done for them and are left to suffer unnecessarily.

For more information, please see [www.fibroaction.org](http://www.fibroaction.org)