Overlap between fibromyalgia tender points and Charcot's hysterical zones

A historical curiosity

Figure Overlap between fibromyalgia tender points and Charcot's hysterical zones

(A) Fibromyalgia tender points (extracted from <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK55559/?report=reader>). (B) Charcot's hysterical zones (modified from reference 2 with permission). (C) Composite image with targets marking the fibromyalgia points of our patient.

A 50-year-old woman was referred for evaluation of a bizarre gait pattern, defined as a functional movement disorder. Comorbidities included depression, sleep disorder, and chronic generalized pain for more than 1 year. On clinical examination, she had pain upon touching 15 out of the 18 specified tender points (figure, A), suggesting the diagnosis of fibromyalgia. When questioned about pain, she fulfilled the diagnostic criteria for fibromyalgia, with a widespread pain index >7 and a symptom severity scale score >5 .¹ These fibromyalgia tender points are similar to the ones described by Charcot in 1890, defined as “zones hystérogènes”—hysterical zones (figure, B), overlapping perfectly.²

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