Overlap between fibromyalgia tender points and Charcot’s hysterical zones
A historical curiosity

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. These fibromyalgia tender points are similar to the ones described by Charcot in 1890, defined as “zones hystéro-gènes”—hysterical zones (figure, B), overlapping perfectly.

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