

# Review of: "Food Intolerance and Sensitivity Are Associated With Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain in a Self-Selected Community Population"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Overall, I find the study to be well-written and comprehensive, and the findings are interesting and potentially impactful. However, I have a few comments that I believe would improve the manuscript.

First, in the introduction, you state that "This is the first community study to provide evidence for a direct association between features of fibromyalgia and reported food intolerance and sensitivity." However, I do not believe that this is entirely accurate. There are many studies in the literature investigating the relationship between fibromyalgia and food intolerance/sensitivity, which have found similar results to yours. Therefore, I suggest that you modify this statement to be more nuanced.

Second, in the methods section, it would be useful to describe in more detail the differences among food sensitivity, allergy, and intolerance. For example, the question "is there any food you avoid?" could be applied to intolerance as well as sensitivity, and it is important to clarify which one is being measured.

Third, you state that "Wolfe reported a much higher prevalence of fibromyalgia in women (3.4%) compared to men (0.5%)." However, according to more recent epidemiological studies, the female to male ratio for modified 2010 criteria is 2:1. Therefore, I recommend that you update this information to reflect the current understanding of fibromyalgia epidemiology.

Finally, I believe that sex-related bias may also be related to food intolerance/sensitivity reports, since females, especially young ones, may be more aware of body reactions to food. Therefore, it would be interesting to investigate this potential bias in future studies and discuss it in the paper.