

<Title (T)>

Disability and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

<Inclusion Criteria (R)>

The following study designs were accepted: observational (prospective, retrospective, and cross sectional), or interventional (randomized controlled trials (RCTs), non-randomized controlled trials (nRCTs), uncontrolled case series (UCS)). Studies were required to report:

CFS diagnosed according to one of the four accepted CFS definitions.

Adult patients with CFS and disability.

Medically determinable physical or mental impairment in CFS patients (measures of symptom severity, functional or cognitive impairment, physical activity, exercise testing, general health, or psychiatric impairment).

At least one objective measure related to disability, per SSA guidelines.

<Research Questions (Q)>

Evidence individuals with CFS have discrete impairments that are associated with disability? both physical impairments and mental impairments in the CFS population, current neuropsychological tests reliably detect cognitive or affective impairments associated with decreased ability to work? In individuals with CFS, treatments are effective in restoring the ability to work? Patient characteristics best define improvement in functioning or positive outcomes in the CFS population?

How is improvement in functioning related to the ability to engage in work activity?