

As we have seen in looking at the anatomy and physiology of the sympathetic nervous system, it is closely connected to the central nervous system, which is damaged in arachnoiditis. It is therefore unsurprising that it may not function normally.

Some possible factors might be:

- Abnormal feedback from damaged nerves
- Thalamic effects: pain, stress
- Limbic system: emotional input?
- Sympathetic chain: ? direct damage
- Spinal cord injury>> autonomic dysfunction
- Cervical pathology >> autonomic dysreflexia
- Thyroid abnormalities
- Effects of medication?
- Disturbance of hypothalamic-pituitary axis (seen in some fibromyalgia patients)
- Constant pain is a continual stressor, resulting in adrenal overactivity and subsequent exhaustion (sudden onset fatigue may be associated)