

Survival in Alzheimer disease: A multiethnic, population-based study of incident cases Neurology 2009;72;861

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MS: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

To the Editor: The comparative investigation on the demyelination in brain of patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) and progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy $(PML)^1$ is interesting and has yielded comparable results to earlier studies on MS,² subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE),³ and postvaccinal leukoencephalitis.⁴

The biochemical mechanisms seem to vary. While the basic protein in myelin isolated from the normal-looking white matter is lost to a variable degree, it might be that in SSPE the destruction of myelin may yield more global changes in its protein composition.⁴

Focal central demyelination is also a hallmark of neurologic complications in carbon monoxide poisoning.⁵ It seems that in this specific case the cause is the increased intracellular proteolysis in myelin supporting glia while the demyelination in disease cases above may be due to the proteases from inflammatory cells.

Heikki Savolainen, Tampere, Finland

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Editor's Note: The author of the article was offered the opportunity to respond but declined.

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CORRECTION

Survival in Alzheimer disease: A multiethnic, population-based study of incident cases

In the article "Survival in Alzheimer disease: A multiethnic, population-based study of incident cases" by E.P. Helzner et al. (*Neurology*[®] 2008;71:1489–1495), there is an error in the Results section of the abstract. The corrected sentence should read as follows: "Mortality rates were highest among those diagnosed at older ages and among non-Hispanic whites compared to Hispanics." The finding is reported correctly in the body of the paper. The author regret the error.

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