

Editor's Notes: Insights on the Journal of Neurology and Neuroscience - Volume 7, Issue 6

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Editor's Note

Thomas Willis - A 17th century physician and neuroanatomist coined the term 'neurologie' in his posthumous publication titled 'Cerebri Anatome', which is synonymous to the modern day's 'Neurology'. He is also regarded as the 'Father of Clinical Neuroscience'. Though, the concept on brain structure and remedies for brain diseases were included in the 'Sushruta Samhita', which is a collection of Ayurvedic medicinal practice manual written in between 1200 - 600 B.C. by the first surgeon of the world-Sushruta. Now-a-days, neurology and neuroscience are appreciated with separate study stream, though both are having overlapping zone of study. The basic anatomical descriptions of brain are associated with the studies of 'neurology'. Whereas, neuroscience comprises the mechanisms involved in cellular and molecular level of brain and associated sensory structures. Research and study of neuroscience helps in the development of drugs, tools and techniques to be applied in the clinical practice of neurology; which is why it is highly important to correlate them. The Journal of Neurology and Neuroscience aims to provide platform for the studies of latest findings in the field of neuroscience and neurology. It also strives to disseminate scientific knowledge in the form of research articles, review articles and case reports that highlight how these research findings can be converted into clinical applications.

Neurology and neuroscience are the opposite sides of a coin. Research and study of neuroscience helps in the development of drugs, tools and techniques to be applied in the clinical practice of neurology; which is why it is highly important to correlate them. The Journal of Neurology and Neuroscience aims to do exactly that. While the journal provides platform for the publication of latest findings in the field of neuroscience it also strives to disseminate scientific knowledge in the form of research articles, review articles and case reports that highlight how these research findings can be converted into clinical applications.

The current issue of the journal published many research articles that provided insights into contemporary topics in neurological research. At the same time it also published many case reports that showcased the application of avant- garde medical tools for the treatment of neurological disorders and

the persisting lacunae in the adept methods that needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

Neurological disorders are often multi symptomatic and assessment of the condition of the patient is highly difficult. It has been observed that the neurologists use quality-of-life questionnaires in conjunction with biochemical screening to assess the situation. However, that does not paint a clear picture regarding the real time functionality of the patients, especially in the case of complex disorders like "essential tremors". Kumar et al. [1], has published an article in the current issue of the journal that highlights the importance of application of clinical and functional performance tests for making a clear assessment of the extent of nerve degeneration. The authors have found that the 9-Hole Peg test, box and block test are some of the most commonly used and effective tools that can be included while performing neurological examination of patients [1].

Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) is the earliest stage of Dementia. It is most commonly caused due to aging and thus is very difficult to diagnose. It has been observed that most often it remains untreated until it becomes too severe to hamper the person's ability to perform simple daily tasks. Panebianco et al. [2], in his article published in this issue study, proposed a method to identify a person's susceptibility to dementia and his/her real time condition before it becomes too late. The authors found that geographical alterations in the left temporal region of the brain can act as indicators towards occurrence of dementia. Furthermore, they have also specified that EEG can be used to track these changes and track the progression or regression in a person's condition [2].

On the other hand, Greenspan et al. [3] published an article that speaks about the importance of Hippocampal formation (HF) volume, episodic memory performance and its correlation with heritability and the occurrence of neurological disorders. Though, the authors have proved that HF sub-region volumes are heritable and can thus be used as a quantitative phenotype while performing genetic association studies, but its role in identifying the genetic loci responsible for the occurrence of neurological disorders is yet to be studied. [3].

The article by Nystrom et al. [4] illustrated how important it is to trust the judgment of the patients. The authors performed a test to check whether the subjects were able to distinguish a vertebra from its adjacent one, based on their

own instinct after being stimulated with the help of a short injection needle. The results showed that most of them managed to get it right. It may seem to be confusing that how this experiment helps in the treatment of neurological disorders, but the reality is, assistance from the patient is highly important in accomplishing extremely complex surgeries especially in the spinal region. This article has direct reference to the process of pointing out the lumbar vertebrae that are meant to undergo fusion surgeries in chronic low back pain patients [4].

Multiple sclerosis associated acute optic neuritis (ON) is one of the thrust areas of neurological research. The complexity of prognosis prediction and lack of standardized methods for estimation of the extent of optic nerve damage are some of the factors that hinder the real time treatment of multiple sclerosis patients. In one of the research articles published in the current issue of the journal, the authors Vladimirova et al. [5], proposed the efficacy of the application of optical coherence tomography (OCT) in quantitative estimation of vision impairment in MS patients. The authors also demonstrated the presence of statistically significant correlation between the OCT readings and the recorded visual evoked potentials (VEP). Hopefully, these correlations are taken into account while analyzing other diagnostic data like retinal nerve fiber layer (RNFL) thickness and of the macular ganglion cell complex (GCC) [5].

The current issue also published case reports that provided insights into the symptoms, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of extremely rare neurological diseases. The case report published by Junior [6], discussed the extremely rare condition of Fibrocartilaginous embolism. As of now, very little is known about the exact aetiological factors and treatment regimen for it. The said case report described the disease in a 14 years old male patient. The authors described that in most cases, Fibrocartilaginous embolism remains undiagnosed and when it does, it progresses rapidly and often leads to fatality. The case report highlighted the role of MRI in making the diagnosis. The rarity of the case report makes it highly important and also enhances its clinical implications [6].

The case report published by Erdal et al. [7] described a case of Creutzfeldt–Jacob Disease, an extremely rare neurodegenerative disease that has a rapidly progressing course and symptoms that are often confused with a number of other

neurodegenerative diseases. The said case report presented a similar clinical case of misdiagnosis where the patient was initially diagnosed with cortico-basal degeneration (CBD). Detailed analysis in follow ups demonstrated that the patient was in fact suffering from Creutzfeldt–Jacob Disease. The authors described that, owing to the complexity of treatment it is imperative that a correct diagnosis is made right at the outset. They further mentioned how EEG, cranial MRI data and the 14-3-3 protein positivity in CSF data can be helpful in making the correct diagnosis [7].

The scientific knowledge published in the current issue of the journal is expected to help in the development and application of better methods for the treatment of people with neurological problems. The journal hopes to continue working towards publishing latest research findings in the field of neuroscience that may help in the treatment of hitherto incurable neurological diseases. I am grateful to the authors, peer reviewers and the editorial staff members for their contributions in publishing the current volume of the journal.

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