

# Dementia of infectious origin

## Dementia in AIDS

 For more information see AIDS.

- HIV is a **neurotropic** virus
- immunity is failing
- occurs relatively long after the primary infection

## Prion dementia

- the resulting **spongiform encephalopathies** are caused by prions

### Kuru

- spreads by cannibalism → ingestion of raw brain or liver
- *symptoms*:
  - progressive, global *dementia*
  - neurological symptoms – "cerebellar ataxia"

### Creutzfeld-Jacobo disease

- CJD is the most common prion dementia in humans
- *symptoms*:
  - the clinical picture matches the **picture of kuru**:
    - *cerebellar ataxias*
    - *epileptic seizures*
    - *myoclonus*
- on EEG high sharp waves

### Bovine spongiform encephalopathy

- BSE, or the so-called **'mad cow disease'**

## Dementia in Lyme boreliosis

- *symptoms*:
  - mostly just *milder dementia*, with a secondary *neurasthenic syndrome*

## Progressive paralysis

 For more information see Syphilis.

- = **tertiary lues**
- at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, half of psychiatric patients reportedly suffered from this disease
- it led to death within 3–5 years
- English abbreviation *GPI* (general paralysis of the insane)
- chronic **panencephalitis**
- **atrophy of the cerebral cortex**
- infiltration by plasma cells and proliferation of microglia, neurons degenerate
- is very rare today

### Clinical picture

- *first stage* - picture of *neurasthenic syndrome*:
  - fatigue
  - distractibility, nervousness, lability
  - changes in character, neglects duties and appearance
  - rude joking, boasting
  - euphoria to mania
- there is rapid *memory loss* with *amnesic disorientation*
- *antisocial* and *paraphilic behavior*, *alcoholism*, *criminal activity*
- *neurological symptoms*:
  - **hearing disorder** - pressure sores, hyperreflexia, pronunciation disorders
  - **Argyll-Robertson's pupils** - preserved convergence, but no reaction to light
- sudden death – *ictus paralyticus*

## Forms

- *megalomaniac form* – grandiose delusions
- *depressive form*
- *simplex form* – a picture of progressive dementia
- *Lissauer's form* – neurological symptomatology
- *CSF paralysis* – finding in the CSF, without clinical manifestation

## Diagnosis

- *seropositivity*:
  - it is necessary to do "treponemal reactions" (TPHA, TPI), RRR and VDRL, in the tertiary stage they tend to be negative

## Treatment

- year 1917: **Wagner - Jeuregg**:
  - discovered that "treponemas die at temperatures above 38.5 °C
  - that's how **pyrotherapy** was developed = *treatment of malaria*
  - he received a Nobel prize for his discovery
- today only **ATB** - *penicillin*\* disease is practically reversible

## Links

### Related articles

- Dementia

### References

- BENEŠ, Jiří. *Studijní materiály* [online]. [cit. 2020]. <<http://jirben.wz.cz>>.