

AN ODE TO NEUROLOGY

Dr. Marina Wazir,

Postgraduate Trainee General Medicine, Shifa International Hospital, H-8/4, Islamabad.

The functional organization of the human brain does enthrall us indeed, For such great lengths take place at great speeds. The reticular activating system does keep us awake, Control of the motor system is one job the basal ganglia won't easily forsake.

Some disorders we will discuss next, Differentiating between them may be complex. Parkinsonism is characterized by tremors rigidity and bradykinesia, Alzheimer's disease as we do know leads to amnesia.

When both upper and lower motor neuron signs are simultaneously seen, Motor neuron disease among your differentials ought to have been. Sodium valproate for generalized tonic clonic seizures is considered first line, Carbamazepine or lamotrigine may be added some point in time.

With parietal lobe lesions Gerstmann's syndrome may be seen, In which alexia, acalculia and finger agnosia ought to have been. The triad for NPH is ataxia, urinary incontinence and dementia, With myotonic dystrophy there may be frontal alopecia.

In Wilson's disease, tremor and chorea are some neurological signs, Alongwith which hepatic function may decline. Wernicke's encephalopathy has the triad of ataxia, confusion and ophthalmoplegia, A lesion of the contralateral parietal lobe could show agraphesthesia.

In cases of myasthenia gravis anticholinesterase antibodies ought to be checked, With ring enhancing lesions in neurocysticercosis; the MRI will be decked.

Demyelinating lesions we often see in multiple sclerosis, With low grade fever, weight loss and night sweats one would suspect CNS tuberculosis. Vitamin B12 deficiency can lead to subacute degeneration of the spinal cord, Natalizumab in the treatment of MS would be a double edged sword.

In friedreichs ataxia pes cavus is often found on examination,

Patients with HSV encephalitis can have confabulation. A lesion of the lateral medulla can cause Wallenberg's syndrome, Prion disease may have an underlying palindrome.

There is a wide variety of neurological disorders you will encounter, An understanding of the basic anatomy and physiology will make you smarter. So with patients you would be able to extend a helping hand, Which is a feeling that is truly grand.