

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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A Viewpoint about the Treatment of Wilson's Disease

The following article "A Viewpoint about the Treatment of Wilson's Disease" by Abdul Qayyum Rana, Abolfazl Avan, Iqra Aftab, Wasim Mansoor and Tjaard Ubbo Hoogenraad, published in the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences 2013 Jul;40(4):612-4, has been retracted by agreement between the authors and the Editor-in-Chief, Robert Chen. The reason for the retraction is that two of the authors, Dr. Avan and Dr. Hoogenraad, indicated that they do not agree with the content and the publication of the article.

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Spinocerebellar Ataxia Presenting in the Eighth Decade of Life

Spinocerebellar ataxias (SCA) are a heterogeneous group of autosomal dominant disorders characterized clinically by gait instability due to degeneration of the cerebellum and its connections.¹ Estimates of prevalence range from 3 per 100,000² to 19 per 100,000³ population. There are at least 36 described subtypes⁴ with SCA3 being the most common worldwide. The following report documents the onset of cerebellar ataxia at age 72 with a previously normal neurological history.

CASE REPORT

A 75-year-old woman was referred to the stroke clinic for dysarthria. Stroke was suspected because it was thought symptoms started one month earlier. She denied double vision or swallowing difficulties. In addition to dysarthria, she also reported a three-year history of slow and steadily progressive gait difficulty. Three years earlier she had a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the cervical spine for this symptom. Cervical spondylosis was noted from the C3 through C7 levels. She was offered a cervical laminectomy which she declined. She had also been taking simvastatin at the time of initial symptoms; it was discontinued without abatement of symptom progression. Her medical history included hypertension, hyperlipidemia, colon cancer with right hemicolectomy, and osteoporosis. She denied a