Accepted 10 March 1989

**Psychiatric disturbance in mitochondrial encephalomyopathy**

Sir: Luft et al.1 reported a case of muscle disorder which was considered as mitochondrial myopathy because of abnormal existence of muscular mitochondria revealed by the ultrastructural, histochemical and biochemical assays. The term mitochondrial encephalomyopathy was introduced by Shapira et al.2 to represent various types of neuromuscular disorders which showed defects in the oxidative metabolic system involved in energy production in the muscular mitochondria. There have been, however, few studies to our knowledge to investigate the psychiatric disturbance of mitochondrial encephalomyopathy. This case report describes psychiatric features of mitochondrial encephalomyopathy.

The patient was a 35 year old male. His short stature had been remarkable since the age of 10 years. At the age of 19 years he complained of severe abdominal pain with vomiting. General muscle atrophy had developed gradually since then. At the age of 25 years, he had a sudden abdominal pain and showed schizophrenia-like symptoms: auditory hallucination, delusion of reference and persecution, delusional mood, loosening of association and disorganised behaviour. He was admitted to a mental hospital and the symptoms disappeared after treatment with various antipsychotics for about three weeks. At the ages of 28 and 30 years, he was admitted to the same mental hospital with symptoms such as illogical thought, loss of psychomotor excitement and impulsive behaviour. After 2 months in the hospital, these psychiatric disturbances were.

**References**

1 Smith SJM, Kocen RS. A Creutzfeldt-Jakob like disease due to lithium toxicity. J

**Letters**

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