marked reduction of muscle permeability to potassium. Effects of lithium on potassium metabolism have been described in vitro studies. Results are contradictory, depending on the study design and the patient's psychiatric state. No noticeable and consistent systematic effect of lithium on blood pressure has been reported. Nevertheless, lithium could enhance Na-K pump activity, similar to potassium.2

Lithium therapy has already been proposed in various forms of familial periodic paralysis with varying results.1,4 To our knowledge, there is only one other report concerning lithium therapy in a patient with FHPP.1 In this case, carbonate lithium was administered to reach serum lithium up to 1.0 mmol/l. No benefit was observed, notably on attack frequency which remained about one per week. Biochemical homo- geneity of FHPP may be questioned on the basis of such discrepant results. Some forms could be lithium sensitive and others, lithium resistant. Further studies are clearly needed to elucidate this problem. Lithium, as an oral potassium add-on therapy, is worth trying in FHPP trials with standard therapy. It is safe and can be beneficial on rate of attack.

We are grateful to Drs N Dafioti and S Sirot from LABCATLAB for their help in the trial design and the provision of the drug, and to Professor Guy Chazot for his valuable comments.

CHRISTIAN CONFAVREUX
PAUL GARASSI
ALAIN VIGHETTO
GILBERT AIMARD
Clinique de Neurologie,
Hôpital Neuroréna, and
Service de Neurologie,
Hôpital de l'Antiquaille,
Lyon, France
Correspondence to: Professor Confavreux, clinique de Neurologie, Hôpital Neurologique, 59 boulevard Pinel, 69003 Lyon, France.


Hyperphagia in dementia: fluvoxamine takes the biscuit

Marked overeating has been described in a number of conditions which involve brain damage.1 Such overeating can cause management difficulties, but there have not been any reports of effective drug treatment for this problem. We describe the case of a man with probable Pick's disease whose marked hyperphagia appears to have been reduced by fluvoxamine.

A 69 year old man presented with a four year history of personality change and diff-


My Music—a case of musical reminis-
cence diagnosed courtesy of the BBC

Musical remiscence is a disorder character-ized by formed auditory hallucinations of a musical nature. This case is unusual in that the patient made the diagnosis and was subjected to NMR and SPECT studies.

On Christmas Eve 1985, an active 73 year old woman retired to bed in a particularly distressed state. She had just learned that her son and daughter-in-law were about to separate. On Christmas Day, she was surprised to find her "elderly" neighbours playing Christmas tunes loudly on what she presumed to be a new music centre. She was reluctant to come at first as she felt her old neighbours "had so few pleasures left to them". After a few days the continuous and repetitive tunes became so irksome that she asked her home-help to make discrete enquiries. She was dismayed to learn that her neighbours had not bought a new music centre. Sometime later her son visited and she described to him the sounds she was hearing. He realised that there was a basis for her mother's complaints and initiated a series of medical referrals through the family doctor. The ENT surgeons prescribed a tinutus