

CAN WE IDENTIFY INCIPIENT AD-DEMENTIA? YES

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Dementia is not a disease but a neurological syndrome which becomes clinically manifest as a consequence of long-term evolution and/ or accumulation of brain lesions (multiple, diffuse or rarely unique but strategically located) specific for a large range of diseases. Among these, the most frequent entities which in their most advanced stage manifest as dementia are some neurodegenerative and cerebrovascular disease, which lesions are quite often intricated (mixed dementia). As long as it is too late to modify the evolution of such a disease when it associates the demential syndrome, efforts have been made to find the possibility to diagnose the causative disease before the development of dementia. In Alzheimer's disease (AD) - which is the most frequent etiology of dementia in the general population, we have nowadays the possibility to use combined biological markers to identify the disease before the demential stage (the prodromal stage of dementia which most often is overlapping to those patients with clinical evolutive MCI as a consequence of the lesional background of AD). International groups of experts and scientific medical societies have recently published criteria for such an early diagnosis, which are nowadays accessible in most important medical centers but not yet in all countries.