COX-2 inhibitors: a role for Alzheimer's disease?

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Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
To summarise the available evidence on the use of COX-2 inhibitors in the treatment or prevention of Alzheimer's disease.

Authors' conclusions
Several obstacles have stood in the way of obtaining definitive proof of benefit from NSAIDs:

1. A lack of a comprehensive list of risk factors for AD to assess protective effect. 2. The requirement for large size trials that may require many years to detect a decrease in the probability of developing AD. 3. A lack of agreement on suitable outcome endpoints. 4. No clear data to indicate the optimal timing of therapy.

The long term adverse effects of NSAIDs have been one of the primary reasons for the emergence and testing of COX-2 inhibitors as a possible alternative to regular NSAIDs. Currently only animal and in vitro evidence exists. Clinical trials are required as well as long term experience with these drugs to assess their safety record.

Project page URL
https://www.ccohta.ca/research/index.html

Indexing Status
Subject indexing assigned by CRD

MeSH
Alzheimer Disease /drug therapy; Anti-Inflammatory Agents, Non-Steroidal; Costs and Cost Analysis

Language Published
English, French

Country of organisation
Canada

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AccessionNumber
31999009910

Date bibliographic record published
Date abstract record published
25/01/2000