



In lieu of the autumn newsletter, I am circulating a copy of Dr Jason Warren's recently published clinical review of frontotemporal dementia. It appears in the 6 August 2013 edition of the BMJ. I hope you find it of interest. Please circulate it as widely as appropriate as a means of raising awareness about FTD in general and explaining the PPA classification more specifically.

With regard to forthcoming meetings, I would like to make you aware of the following dates and arrangements, as listed overleaf.

It is always good to see familiar faces at these meetings, and we endeavour to welcome people who are attending for the first time as sensitively as possible.

We appreciate that it can be daunting to come along to a support group meeting, and potentially distressing to see people who are at different stages of the disease progression. On balance, people say they have benefitted from the contact with others who understand what they are experiencing and all that the diagnosis of PPA inevitably entails.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like more information about the meetings, or indeed to confirm your attendance.

BMJ - Clinical Review - Frontotemporal Dementia:

Jason Warren, Jonathan Rohrer and Martin Rossor

In this review of frontotemporal dementia, Jason Warren, Wellcome Trust Senior Clinical Fellow and Reader in Neurology, Jonathan Rohrer, Clinical Lecturer and Martin Rossor, Senior Investigator and Director of the Dementia Research Centre, Institute of Neurology, University College London, provide an overview of FTD, emphasising clinical aspects and highlighting recent progress and prospects.

They describe the main clinical syndromes of FTD, defined on the basis of leading features at presentation. About half of all cases present with behavioural changes [behavioural variant FTD] and the remainder with language decline [Primary Progressive Aphasia] characterised either by impaired speech production [progressive non fluent aphasia] or by impaired word comprehension and semantic memory (that is memory for meaning) [semantic dementia].

They describe the causes of FTD, molecular pathologies, prognosis and management options as well as giving consideration to future prospects for therapies.

The paper provides tips for non-specialists, additional educational resources and a bedside assessment guide.

Please see the attached hard copy version of the paper, or view it at www.ftdsg.org

Forthcoming meetings

Full PPA Support Group Meeting: Tues 10 December 2013: Wilkins Haldane Room, UCL, Gower St, London, WC1E 6BT. 11am-2pm. Jacqueline Kindell is a specialist speech and language therapist, who has worked as part of a specialist multi-disciplinary team, providing assessment, treatment and management advice to people with dementia and their carers. A significant part of this role has been working with people who experience feeding and swallowing difficulties. She has published extensively, and we look forward to welcoming her to speak at this meeting

Joint FTD/PPA/PCA Carers Meeting: Thursday 13 Feb 2014 :Wilkins Haldane Room, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. 11am – 2pm. Altered intimacy within close relationships, following the diagnosis of dementia will be the focus of this meeting. Guest speaker TBC.

Full PPA Support Group Meeting: Thursday 5 June 2014:Wilkins Haldane Room, UCL, Gower St, London, WC1E 6BT. 11am-2pm.

Additional events of interest:

An afternoon of short talks on Frontotemporal Dementia and Related Disorders: Saturday 12 October 2013. 2.00 - 5.00pm Manchester Conference Centre, Weston Building, Sackville Street, Manchester, M1 3BB. Tel 0161 955 8000 to book a place.

Free to all members of the public.

Frontotemporal Dementia Support Group Annual Seminar: Tuesday March 4 2014 9.30am-4pm. 33 Queen Sq., London, WC1N 3BG.

The agenda will encompass a wide range of FTD related issues, with more details available from Jill Walton nearer the time.

Please contact Jill Walton for further information on any of the above

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