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Rapid cognitive improvement in Alzheimer's disease following perispinal etanercept administration.

Tobinick EL, Gross H

J Neuroinflammation 2008 Jan 9 **5**(1):2 [[abstract on PubMed](#)]

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PHYSIOLOGY

- Hypothesis
- New Finding
- Tech Advance
- Novel Drug Target

Comments

If confirmed by additional cases, this report of almost immediate and significant cognitive improvement triggered by perispinal administration of a TNF antagonist in one patient with the clinical signs of Alzheimer's disease will be considered a landmark in the treatment of this increasingly devastating disease. Although a single case study is reported, it is part of a larger clinical trial underway to treat AD patients by weekly administration of etanercept, and thus replication of the reported observation should become available soon. On the basis of extensive work related to the role of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as TNF in neuroinflammation and AD, the authors propose working hypotheses on the role of TNF in regulation of synaptic transmission to explain their observations. This should trigger, in the short term, validation studies aimed at testing these provocative and stimulating hypotheses.

Competing interests: None declared

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