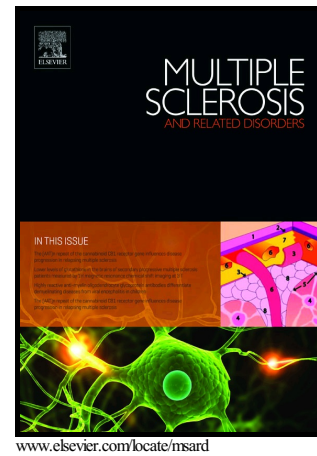


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Is *Toxoplasma gondii* Infection Protective Against Multiple Sclerosis Risk?

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

Parasitic infections may play a protective role in neurodegenerative diseases.

OBJECTIVE

To determine the association between *Toxoplasma gondii* (*T. gondii*) infection and Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

METHODS

One hundred fifteen patients with MS were included in the study. Sixty age and gender-matched healthy subjects were recruited as controls. Subjects were assessed for clinical and demographic parameters. The presence of specific IgG antibodies against *T. gondii* microorganism was searched by using an enzyme immunoassay test in the sera of the subjects.

RESULTS

T. gondii seropositivity was found to be lower in MS patients than in healthy controls (33.9% vs. 55%, p=0.007). Mean age and disease duration of the patients were 41.15±11.20 (18-74) and 1.90±1.44 (0-6) years, respectively.

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