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Authors

Litvan, Irene
Lang, Anthony E
Armstrong, Melissa

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CBD diagnostic criteria: exclusions as important as inclusions

We enjoyed reading the publication by Koga *et al* on 'Neuropathology and emerging biomarkers in corticobasal syndrome'¹ but would like to clarify their statement that 'subsequent clinicopathological studies have shown that the sensitivity and specificity of the Armstrong criteria are suboptimal'. It is critical to emphasise that part of the suboptimal accuracy in the cited Alexander *et al*² study was due to a failure of those authors to apply the specified Corticobasal degeneration (CBD) exclusionary criteria.³ The specificity of the CBD criteria would have greatly improved had the authors² used biomarkers to exclude Alzheimer's disease, as originally proposed.³ In fact, the CBD set of clinical diagnostic criteria was the first to propose the use of several biomarkers to exclude not only Alzheimer but also frontotemporal dementia associated with TDP43 in atypical parkinsonian disorders.³

Unfortunately, in our original publication, the exclusionary criteria for CBD were only included in the legend of a figure, which may have led to errors in their use.³ As shown in other publications, the CBD criteria are extremely specific,⁴ but insufficiently sensitive. We are currently working on refining the criteria to improve its sensitivity.

Irene Litvan ,¹ Anthony E Lang ,^{2,3} Melissa Armstrong⁴

¹Neuroscience Department, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, California, USA

²Neurology, Toronto Western Hospital Krembil Neuroscience Centre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

³Movement Disorders Clinic and the Edmond J. Safra Program in Parkinson's Disease, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

⁴Neurology Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA

Correspondence to Dr Irene Litvan, Neuroscience Department, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, California, USA; ilitvan@ucsd.edu

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ORCID iDs

Irene Litvan <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-3485-3445>

Anthony E Lang <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-1229-3667>

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