The Neuron: Cell and Molecular Biology, Third Edition

by Irwin B. Levitan and Leonard K. Kaczmarek, 603 pp, ill, New York, NY, Oxford University Press, 2002, \$59.95

Neuroplasticity, Development, and Steroid Hormone Action

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Surgical Management of Pain

by Kim J. Burchiel, 1,008 pp, ill, New York, NY, Thieme Medical Publishers, 2002, \$249

Neuro Images

Figure. (A) A 61-year-old woman had an enlarged tongue. At age 58 she had restrictive cardiomyopathy and 2 years later proximal muscular weakness developed. In addition, EMG demonstrated a prominent motor axonal neuropathy. A monoclonal serum protein was identified leading to a diagnosis of amyloidosis, which was confirmed by endomyocardial biopsy. (B) A 53-year-old woman reported paresthesiae and dysesthesia in the feet and showed a severely atrophic tongue with continuous fasciculations. At age 37 she presented with loss of vision caused by amyloid infiltration of the vitreous body. Neurologic examination showed a mild sensory neuropathy and EMG confirmed axonal polyneuropathy. Molecular studies revealed the Pro36 TTR mutation.

Tongue involvement in amyloidoses

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Light chain amyloidosis and transthyretin (TTR) amyloidosis both have peripheral neuropathy as a prominent neurologic feature.¹ We report two patients with amyloidotic

peripheral neuropathy and remarkably different abnormal appearance of the tongue. One showed macroglossia (figure, A) secondary to deposition of amyloid between the muscle fibers,² whereas the other showed tongue atrophy (figure, B) presumably caused by TTR amyloid deposit in the hypoglossal nerves.¹

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Neurology 2002;59:793

DOI 10.1212/WNL.59.5.793

This information is current as of September 10, 2002

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