Imagens em NEUROLOGIA

Redlich and the plaques in senile atrophy of the brain

Redlich e as placas na atrofia senil do cérebro

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The main neuropathological brain signature of Alzheimer’s disease comprises mainly 'amyloid plaques' (senile plaques), and ‘neurofibrillary tangles’, accompanied by other occurrences.¹

Emil Redlich (1866-1930), born to a Jewish family in Brünn, Moravia (today Czech Republic), was a neurologist and psychiatrist. Among his numerous studies, he published the paper “On the miliary scleroses of the cerebral cortex in the senile atrophy” (Ueber miliare Sklerose der Hirnrinde bei seniler Atrophie) (1898).²³

He described one patient with the diagnosis of ‘senile dementia’ (senile Demenz) who evolved to exitus. The post-mortem revealed severe brain atrophy, and “small compacted foci in the cerebral cortex” (kleine Verdichtungsherde der Hirnrinde), on microscopic examination. He denominated such structures initially as “miliary sclerosis” (miliare Sklerose), and then as ‘plaques’ (Plaques). These were of varied sizes, and found abundantly in the upper, and less in the deeper cortical layers. On higher magnification, they displayed a homogeneous, slightly grained structure, and a fine fibre felt on the periphery, gradually merging with the surrounding gila.⁴(Figure)

Additionally, he described the ganglion cells [neurons], observing that next to normal appearing, very shrunken neurons were seen, with their number clearly reduced. He cited briefly his similar clinically and pathologically second case, and a third one, a case of Prof. Heinrich Obersteiner’s collection.⁴

Redlich stressed that the ‘plaques’ are most numerous in those parts of the cortex where the neurons show the most severe changes.⁴

REFERENCES


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