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Further Section

N.H.

Wadia

Letter to the Editor

Neuroepidemiology 1986;5:105

Dear Sir,

With regard to the article, 'Multiple sclerosis: Indian experience in the last thirty years' (Neuroepidemiology 4: 96–107, 1985).

I enjoyed reading it, but would like to point out that I have a very strong impression related to the small Parsi community, mostly residing in Bombay which has a population of about 8 million. I have always felt that there are far too many patients with MS in this small community of 100,000 Parsis in India. Of course, this has not been statistically proven, but the difficulty has been that the number of MS patients that one sees as an individual neurologist are very few and controlled epidemiological studies are not possible in this country, especially when the expected number of cases would be small anywhere.

In my practice, the number of patients with MS from the Parsi community are only a little less than those from all the other communities put together and my practice amongst Parsis is very small compared to the total number of patients that I see, probably under 1 %. Another fact which also supports this is that, whereas I have seen several hundred patients with brain tumours in my practice over the last 25 years amongst all communities, the number of Parsi patients would be less than 20.

Although only a strong impression, it has convinced me so much that I have put it down in my papers on this subject [1–3].

References

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- 3 Trikannad, V.S.; Wadia, N.H.; Krishnaswamy, P.R.: Multiple sclerosis and HLA-B12 in Parsi and non-Parsi Indians: a clarification. *Tissue Antigens* 19: 155–157 (1982).

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