

Multiple Sclerosis

M Bergkvist et al. Acta Neurologica Scandinavica. November (2001) Vol.104 #5 p 262.

The possibility of an injury related aetiology of MS has been raised in case law. But there remains considerable uncertainty.

Some studies have shown a genetic predisposition is involved; twins have high concordance, 30%.

This was a very small but thorough study of the role of infection. 3 pairs of genetically identical twins who had shared the same environment but were discordant for MS, were studied.

Tested for anti bodies against 21 viruses, 4 bacteria and *Toxoplasma gondii*.

These are listed below:

Toxoplasma gondii.
Borrelia.
Herpes simplex,
zoster,
HHV-6,
CMV,
EBV
Influenza A and B
Adenovirus,
RS virus,
parainfluenza virus 1,2,3,
mycoplasma pneumoniae,
EBNA,
mumps,
chlamydia trachomatis
pneumoniaer-psittaci,
poliomyelitis 1,2,3 ,

No common factor present only in the MS twins was identified.

Comment

All participants seem to have fully functional immune systems.

The lack of a unique role for any of the above infections does not rule out infection as the trigger but does suggest that none of the above, is a prime suspect.

The report could be criticised in that there was no research into specific history of major trauma.

