

Special Issue

Statin Induced Neurotoxicity

Message from the Guest Editors

Statins are a widely prescribed class of drugs that are used to lower circulatory cholesterol levels. Their primary mode of action is via the inhibition of the enzyme, HMG-CoA (hydroxymethylglutaryl-coenzyme A) reductase, the rate-limiting enzyme in the mevalonate pathway. Despite their widespread use to lower cholesterol and reduce cardiovascular morbidity and mortality, statin therapy also been associated some side effects and most recently evidence of cognitive impairment has been reported with cases of memory loss, insomnia, depression, and cerebellar ataxia being described. At present, the causes of the neurological side effects associated with statin therapy are uncertain, although mitochondrial dysfunction is thought to be one of the main contributing factors. This may result from statin induced cerebral coenzyme Q10 deficiency and/or inhibition of mitochondrial respiratory chain enzyme activity.....

The focus of this special edition will be to highlight the potential causes of statin induced neurotoxicity and to discuss relevant treatment strategies to target and ameliorate these side effects.

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