Serum total homocysteine, vitamin B12 and folic acid levels in Alzheimer and vascular dementias : A comparative study

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The aim of this work is to examine the association of probable Alzheimer and vascular dementias with blood levels of homocysteine and its biological determinants folate and vitamin B12, in addition to its impact on the severity of neurocognitive impairment and radiological brain atrophic changes in these dementing disorders. The current study included eighteen right handed patients (ten females and eight males) of mean age + or-SO 70. 4 + or-3. 65 years and twenty two right handed patients (ten females and twelve males with mean age + or-SO 71. 1 + or- 3. 2 years. The demonstration of vascular risk factors, hyperhomocysteinaemia, radiological global brain atrophic changes and leukoaraiosis in both VAD and DAT patients points to a substantial overlap between these dementing disorders which suggest that vascular pathology, the traditional cornerstone of the differential diagnosis, may not represent a clear line of demarcation as originally thought.