Preventing multiple sclerosis?

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A common feature of organ-specific autoimmune disorders is a broad disease spectrum, which ranges from self-limited acute illnesses to relapsing or more chronic and fatal forms. The variation is less in disorders in which a threshold effect must be exceeded to result in symptoms, as in juvenile diabetes. However, a wide spectrum occurs in most autoimmune disorders, including uveitis, non-infectious arthritis, as well as in optic neuritis and other monosymptomatic demyelinating syndromes. In the last group it is now possible to identify with some accuracy those patients at highest risk of recurrence of lesions elsewhere in the nervous system. Well-validated markers of recurrence include the presence of additional lesions on magnetic-resonance imaging, the presence of the MHC allele DRB 1501, and oligoclonal bands in the cerebrospinal fluid.1,2 When the progressive course dwarfs all other prognostic features, their effect on relapses. Since the development of a broad spectrum occurs in most autoimmune disorders, including uveitis, non-infectious arthritis, as well as in optic neuritis and other monosymptomatic demyelinating syndromes. In the last group it is now possible to identify with some accuracy those patients at highest risk of recurrence of lesions elsewhere in the nervous system. Well-validated markers of recurrence include the presence of additional lesions on magnetic-resonance imaging, the presence of the MHC allele DRB 1501, and oligoclonal bands in the cerebrospinal fluid.1,2 When the progressive course dwarfs all other prognostic features, their effect on relapses. Since the development of interferons be tied to complete follow-up of the original cohort. The cost would have been trivial compared with the financial implications faced more than a decade after the first large trial began. Unfortunately uncertainty on the key question of long-term effectiveness seems destined to persist for an uncomfortably long time. Oscar Wilde knew what to call those who know the price of everything and the value of nothing.

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