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Medical images

Focusing on new variant CJD

These images represent the pathological changes seen in the cerebral cortex of a person who died of new variant Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease. In the top image, hematoxylin–eosin staining reveals distinct “florid plaques” (arrows), characterized by a central eosinophilic core with a feathery peripheral ring surrounded by a halo of spongiform change. Spongiform change is also apparent in the surrounding neuropil (arrowheads). In the image below, immunoperoxidase staining reveals extensive deposition of protease-resistant prion protein, both in the florid plaques (arrows) and as small punctate deposits (arrowheads). (Original magnification x600, increased by 148%).

Histological material kindly provided by Dr. Catherine Bergeron, University of Toronto, from Dr. James Ironside, CJD Surveillance Unit, Edinburgh.

