



nostic tests (amniocentesis procedures) and *their* attendant costs can be reduced.

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Canada's Gulf war veterans

Recent articles in *CMAJ*¹ and *JAMA*² discussed a Canadian report about the health of Gulf war veterans, which attributed their medical symptoms to stress.

Canadian veterans and physicians should determine whether the Gulf War Illness Advisory Committee, which produced this report, had expert representation in neurology or clinical neuropsychology, or from physicians who deal with occupational exposure. Specifically, they should review data on clinical neuropsychology testing, which is used to search for subtle organic neuropathology in young patients who complain of memory problems or have trouble finding words when no overt explanation is found during standard neurologic assessment. This testing is pivotal, but to date data on only 20 US veterans with memory problems have been published.³

Deficits in semantic fluency, finger dexterity and other areas are indicative of organic pathology. A congressional inquiry that deals specifically with clinical neuropsychological testing is needed for US veterans of the Gulf war who have memory problems. Canadian physicians should petition their representatives for similar action if they want to help prevent an injustice.

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References

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