

Prion disease: advances in diagnosis and treatment

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Keywords

Prion disease, Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, BSE, vCJD

Abstract

Steve Dealler is a medical microbiologist with Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust. His work on the diagnosis, epidemiology and potential treatment of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies has brought him inter-national recognition. He has been at the forefront of work on the epidemiology of human food containing the vector for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), and the development of prophylaxis against variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). He is currently working on a potential treatment, pentosan polysulphate. Here he describes the current state of knowledge in the battle against this devastating disease and the political inertia that frustrated earlier attempts to prevent the epidemic.

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