



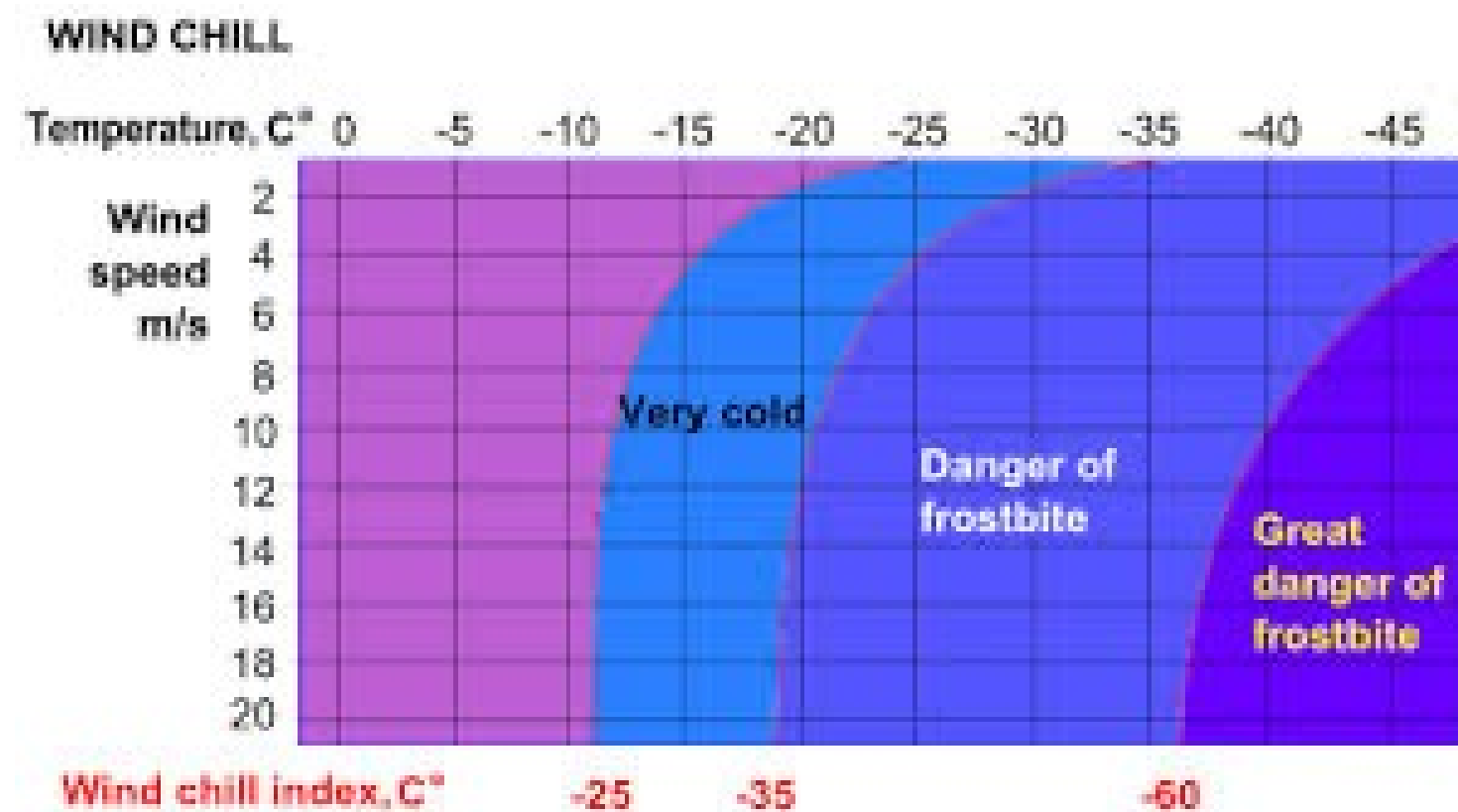
Disturbi neurologici e montagna: controindicazioni e ambiente di prevenzione



AMBIENTE MONTANO: l'altitudine...(!?)

- **pressione** barometrica
- concentrazione d'**ossigeno**
- **temperatura**
- densità e **umidità** dell'aria

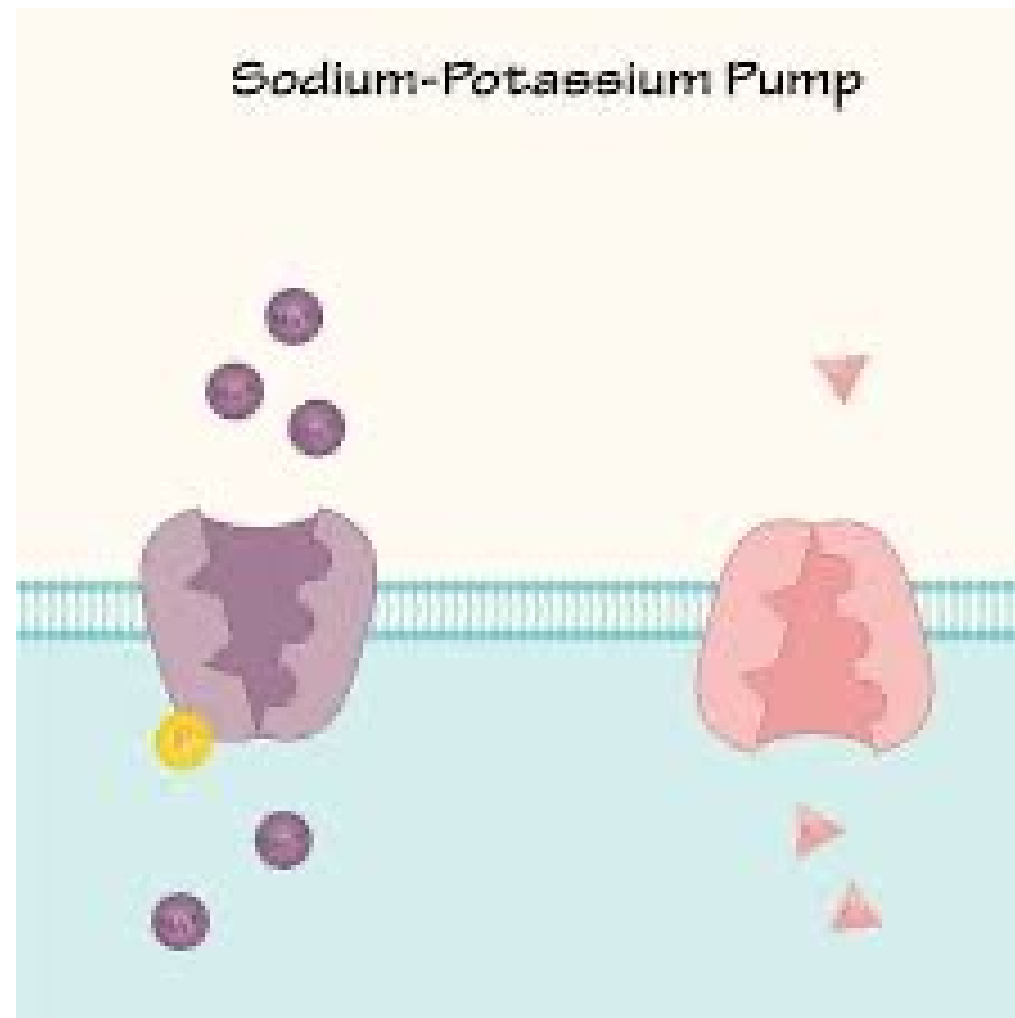
irraggiamento **solare**
wind chill effect



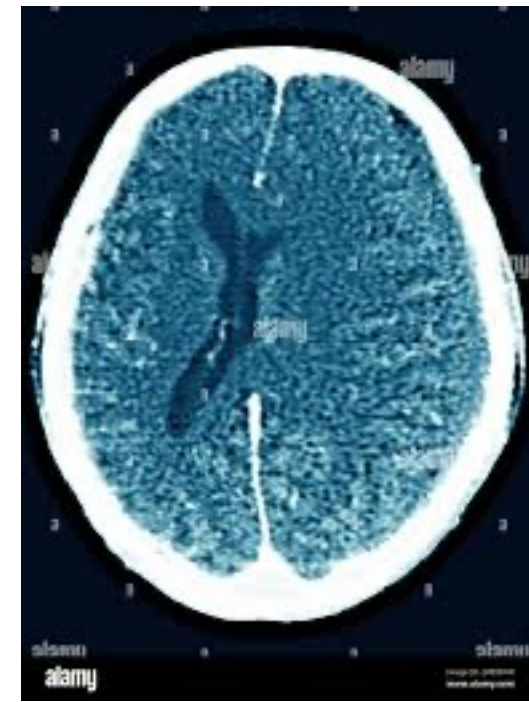
Scala di Bartsch

LIVELLO DEL	MARE 0-500 metri s.l.m.
BASSA QUOTA	500-2000 metri s.l.m.
MEDIA QUOTA	2000-3000 metri s.l.m.
ALTA QUOTA	3000-5500 metri s.l.m.
QUOTA ESTRE	MA > 5500 metri s.l.m.

- FISIOPATOLOGIA IN ALTA QUOTA E SISTEMA NERVOSO



EDENA CEREBRALE



VASOREATTIVITA' CEREBRALE



RISCHIO AMBIENTALE O DI MALATTIA?

- RISCHIO DI CADUTE



- IL LIMITE



- TRAUMA PSICOLOGICO



Recommendations for traveling to altitude with neurological disorders

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DOI: 10.1177/11795735211053448



ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Several neurological conditions might worsen with the exposure to high altitude (HA). The aim of this review was to summarize the available knowledge on the neurological HA illnesses and the risk for people with neurological disorders to attend HA locations.

METHODS: A search of literature was conducted for several neurological disorders in PubMed and other databases since 1970. The neurological conditions searched were migraine, different cerebrovascular disease, intracranial space occupying mass, multiple sclerosis, peripheral neuropathies, neuromuscular disorders, epileptic seizures, delirium, dementia, and Parkinson's disease (PD).

RESULTS: Attempts were made to classify the risk posed by each condition and to provide recommendations regarding medical evaluation and advice for or against traveling to altitude. Individual cases should be advised after careful examination and risk evaluation performed either in an outpatient mountain medicine service or by a physician with knowledge of HA risks. Preliminary diagnostic methods and anticipation of neurological complications are needed.

CONCLUSIONS: Our recommendations suggest *absolute* contraindications to HA exposure for the following neurological conditions: (1) Unstable conditions—such as recent strokes, (2) Diabetic neuropathy, (3) Transient ischemic attack in the last month, (4) Brain tumors, and 5. Neuromuscular disorders with a decrease of forced vital capacity >60%. We consider the following *relative* contraindications where decision has to be made case by case: (1) Epilepsy based on recurrence of seizure and stabilization with the therapy, (2) PD (\pm obstructive sleep apnea syndrome-OSAS), (3) Mild Cognitive Impairment (\pm OSAS), and (4) Patent foramen ovale and migraine have to be considered risk factors for acute mountain sickness.

KEYWORDS: acute mountain sickness, epilepsy, demyelinating disease, migraine, Parkinson's disease, high altitude neurological disorders

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TYPE: Review

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Table 2. Adaptive and maladaptive altitude responses and neurological consequences.

ADAPTIVE MECHANISMS	MALADAPTIVE CONDITIONS	POSSIBLE NEUROLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES
Hypercoagulable state (e.g., polycythemia, platelet aggregation, coagulation abnormalities)	Increased hypoxia-inflammatory response (endothelial dysfunction)	Ischemic stroke Cerebral venous thrombosis
Reduced plasma volume	Dehydration Cardiac arrhythmias	
Cerebrovascular autoregulation	Impaired cerebrovascular autoregulation	Ischemic stroke RCVS Possible MS relapses
Hypoxic pulmonary vasoconstriction	+ PFO and deep vein thrombosis: paradoxical embolism	Cryptogenic stroke
Hypoxic peripheral and central chemoreflex sensitivity	Increased blood pressure	PRES Hemorrhagic stroke
Vasodilation	Increased capillary permeability and blood flow in the brain	+ Decreased barometric pressure in the presence of aneurisms→ subarachnoid hemorrhage
Hypoxia induces increased sympathetic activity	Exaggerated sympathetic activity	Syncope
Hypocapnia and hypoxic ventilatory response	Cerebral vasoconstriction	TGA Delirium
Increased CBF	Activation of trigeminovascular system	Migraine
Periodic breathing	Central apneas	Sleep alterations
Hypoxemia	1) Increased β -amyloid ($A\beta$) level, reduced expression of several synaptic proteins and astroglial cell markers in different brain areas 2) Increased alfa-synuclein levels; basal ganglia susceptibility to hypoxic-ischemic damage	1) Cognitive impairment 2) PD
Vasospasm, dehydration, hypercoagulable state	Brain swelling and increased intracranial pressure	+ Barometric pressure changes→ Cranial nerve palsies
Sympathetic activation	Lack of autonomic nervous system compensation (impaired chemosensitivity to hypoxia)	1) Dyspnoea in PD 2) Multiple sclerosis relapse
Vasodilation and increased CBF	Brain swelling and increased intracranial pressure	Tumors become symptomatic
Decreased oxygen delivery (hypoxemia)	Increased intracranial and cerebral perfusion pressure, increased blood-brain barrier permeability increasing free radicals' actions	Slowing brain trauma repair
PNS hypoxia	Hypoxia induces angiopathy worsening along with microtraumatic events and cold exposure	Peripheral nerve disorders
Neurotransmitters changes	Increased neuronal excitability: Sleep disturbances, dehydration, exhaustion, hypocalcemia or hyponatremia. In addition, acute severe hypoxia and respiratory alkalosis	May provoke epileptic seizure

CBF: cerebral blood flow; MS: multiple sclerosis; PD: Parkinson's disease; PFO: patent foramen ovale; PNS: peripheral nervous system; PRES: Posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome; RCVS: Reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome; TGA: Transient global amnesia.

Table 3. Recommendations for HA exposure for neurological patients.

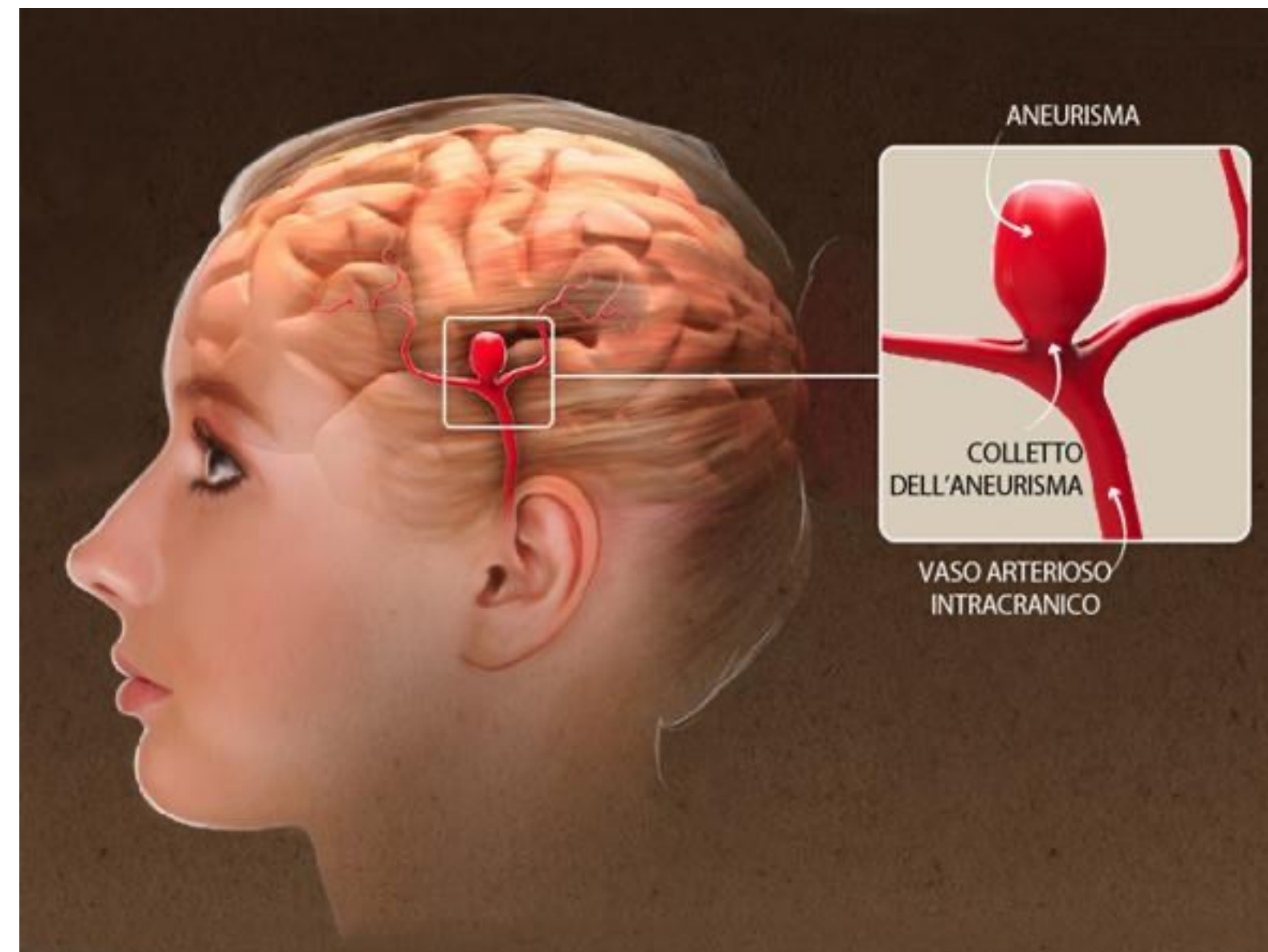
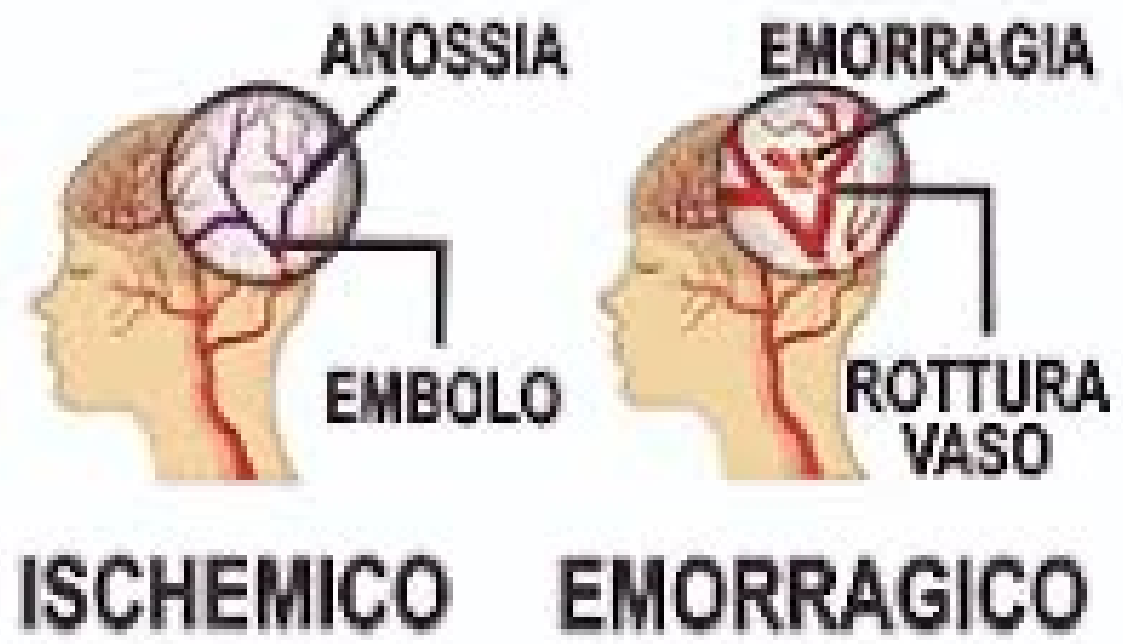
RECOMMENDATIONS	NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS
Absolute contraindications	• Unstable conditions, such as recent strokes
	• Diabetic neuropathy
	• TIA in the last months
	• Brain tumors
Relative contraindications ^a	• Neuromuscular disorders, with a decrease of FVC of >60%
	• Epilepsy based on seizure recurrence of and stabilization with the therapy
	• Parkinson's disease (\pm OSAS)
	• Mild Cognitive Impairment (\pm OSAS)
	• PFO and migraine have to be considered as a risk factor for AMS

^apersonalized decision has to be made after careful evaluation by a neurologist expert in the field.

AMS: acute mountain sickness; FVC: forced vital capacity; OSAS: obstructive sleep apnea syndrome; PFO: patent foramen ovale; TIA: transient ischemic attack.

Stroke

ICTUS





Annales de Réadaptation et de
Médecine Physique



Volume 48, Issue 4, May 2005, Pages 180-186

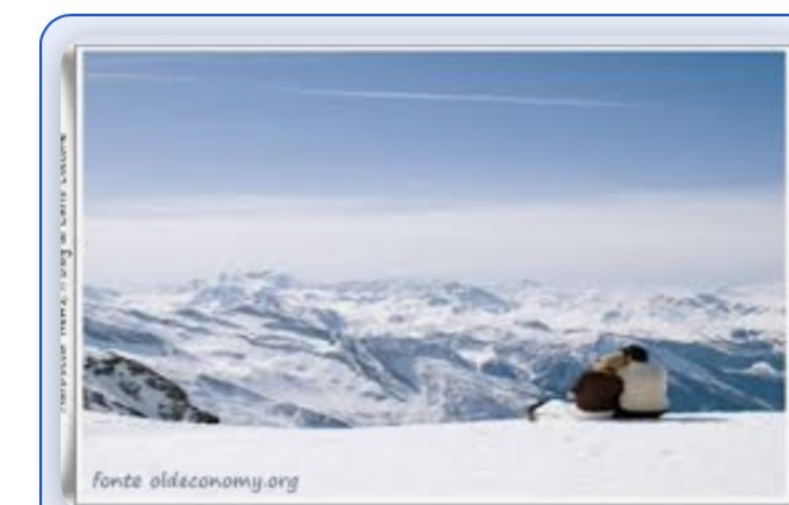


Article original

Hémiplégie et tour du Mont Blanc : de l'espoir à la réalité

Hemiplegia and hiking tour of the Mont Blanc: hope a reality

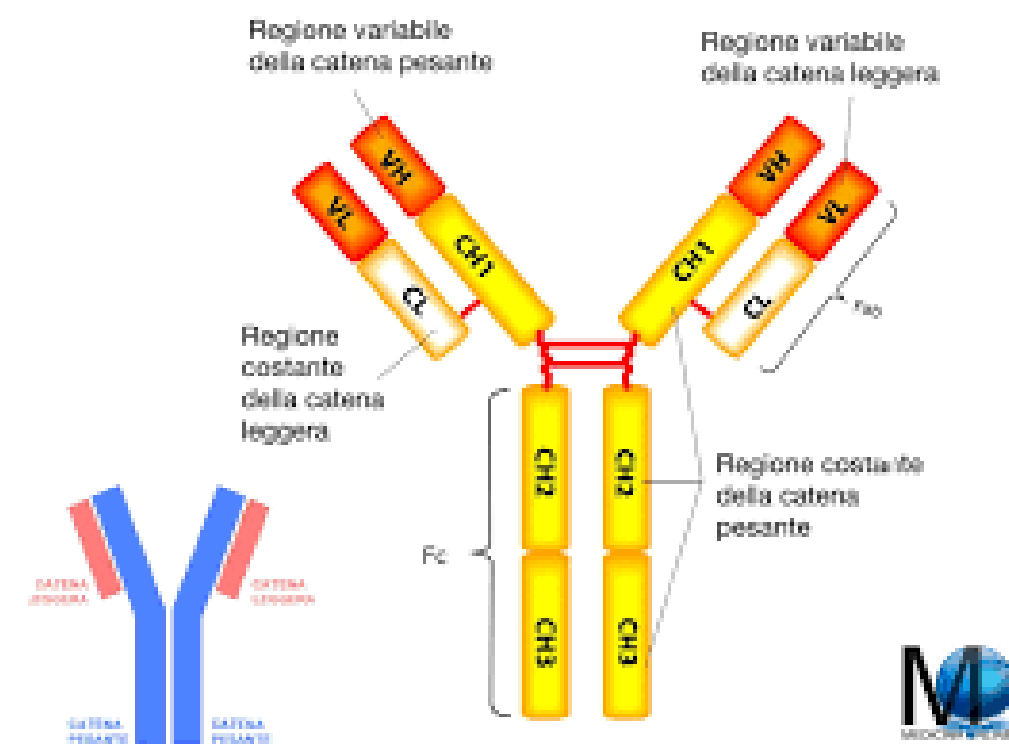
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Malattia Autoimmune ma possibile ruolo ipossia



> [Mult Scler Int.](#) 2014:2014:761210. doi: 10.1155/2014/761210. Epub 2014 May 21.

Impact of a 5-day expedition to machu picchu on persons with multiple sclerosis

Marie Beatrice D'hooghe ¹, Peter Feys ², Sam Deltour ³, Isabelle Van de Putte ⁴, Jan De Meue ⁵, Daphne Kos ⁶, Bert O Eijnde ², Paul Van Asch ⁷

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 24967103 PMCID: [PMC4055387](#) DOI: [10.1155/2014/761210](#)

Il sito web dell'Associazione Italiana Sclerosi Multipla (AISM) presenta un articolo intitolato "Come in Paradiso: in carrozzina tra le Dolomiti". L'articolo, datato 31/07/2020, descrive un'escursione organizzata dalla Sezione AISM di Venezia e dal Gruppo operativo AISM di Martellago, che ha trasferito persone con sclerosi multipla a Laste, nelle Dolomiti, per un'escursione dal 26 luglio al 30 agosto. Il sito include anche un menu con "DOVE SIAMO?", "CONTATTI", "SCLEROSI MULTIPLA +", "NMO +", "VIVERE CON LA SM +", "SERVIZI +", "DIRITTI" e una sezione "NEWSLETTER", "LIBRERIA", "COMUNITA'".

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Home / Alpino / Sull'Everest con la sclerosi multipla
Apriamo
Sull'Everest con la sclerosi multipla
Redazione · 27 Marzo 2009 · 0 · Meno di un minuto

NEW YORK, Usa — Scalerà l'Everest con la sclerosi multipla. Questo l'obiettivo dell'americana Lori Schneider, che ha già scalato sei delle Seven Summits e che questa primavera intende chiudere il cerchio sulla montagna più alta del mondo e vincere simbolicamente, sia la malattia che la paura che la accompagna.

PUBBLICITÀ

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MILITARY MEDICINE, 00, 0/0:1, 2019

Multiple Sclerosis Exacerbation Associated With High-Altitude Climbing Exposure

Col David T. Hsieh, USAF, MC,†; Lt Col Graham I. Warden, USAF, MC‡;
Maj Jay M. Butler, USAF, BSC§; Erika Nakanishi, RN, BSN†; Yuri Asano, MD||*

ABSTRACT The spectrum of the neurological effects of high-altitude exposure can range from high-altitude headache and acute mountain sickness, to the more severe end of the spectrum with high-altitude cerebral edema. In general, patients with known unstable preexisting neurological conditions and those patients with residual neurological deficits from a preexisting neurological condition are discouraged from climbing to high altitudes because of the risk of exacerbation or worsening of symptoms. Although multiple sclerosis exacerbations can be triggered by environmental factors, high-altitude exposure has not been reported as a potential trigger. We are reporting the case of a multiple sclerosis exacerbation presenting in an active duty U.S. Air Force serviceman upon ascending and descending Mt. Fuji within the same day.

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- Ambiente pericoloso (autonomia parziale)
- Valutare lesioni attive o recenti progressioni di malattia (RM)
- TH immunosoppressive?

Parkinson

Comparative Study > J Neural Transm Park Dis Dement Sect. 1993;5(2):157–61.

doi: 10.1007/BF02251206.

Physical activity and sports in patients suffering from Parkinson's disease in comparison with healthy seniors

E Ferti¹, A Doppelbauer, E Auff

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PMID: 8333910 DOI: 10.1007/BF02251206

Abstract

Physical activity during lifetime was investigated among 32 Parkinson patients (age 65.6 +/- 8.1 yrs, mean +/- SD) retrospectively by means of a structured interview. Data were compared with 31 healthy controls (age 61.7 +/- 5.8 yrs). An objective score was obtained by presenting a list of all kinds of sports, subjective estimation of physical activity was done by visual analogous scales. Until the occurrence of the first symptoms (mean = 58.5 yrs) the patients did not differ from controls. During the course of disease a striking reduction in physical activity but no complete abandonment of sports was found. Swimming, hiking and gymnastics were the favoured sports in both groups. Learning of new sports seemed to be impossible for the patients.

Hu et al. *BMC Neurology* (2024) 24:10
https://doi.org/10.1186/s12883-023-03499-7

BMC Neurology

RESEARCH

Open Access

Association of time spent outdoors with the risk of Parkinson's disease: a prospective cohort study of 329,359 participants



Ling Hu^{1†}, Yisen Shi^{2,3†}, Xinyang Zou^{2,3}, Zhaohui Lai¹, Fabin Lin^{4*}, Guoen Cai^{2*} and Xianghong Liu^{1*}

Abstract

Background Studies on the association between time spent outdoors and the development of Parkinson's disease (PD) are lacking, and whether this relationship differs in different subgroups (age, sex) remains unclear.

Objective We here examined the association between time spent outdoors and the incidence of PD in different seasons.

Methods This study included 329,359 participants from the UK Biobank. Data regarding hours spent outdoors during a typical day were obtained through questionnaires. Cox proportional hazard regression models were used to estimate hazard ratios (HRs) for the association between exposure to outdoors duration and PD incidence. Restricted cubic spline was used to explore the potential nonlinear relationship between time spent outdoors and PD risk. To explore the potential mechanisms of time spent outdoors effecting the risk of PD incidence, their association with serum vitamin D was further analysed separately.

Results During a median follow-up of 13.57 years, 2,238 participants developed PD. In summer, time spent outdoors > 5.0 h/day was associated with a reduced PD risk compared with ≤ 2.0 h/day (HR = 0.84, 95% CI, 0.74–0.95). In winter too, time spent outdoors > 2.0 h/day was also associated with a reduced PD risk compared with ≤ 1.0 h/day (HR = 0.85, 95% CI, 0.76–0.94). For annual average time spent outdoors, participants who went outdoors for more than 3.5 h/day had a reduced PD risk than those who went outdoors for ≤ 1.5 h/day (HR = 0.85, 95% CI, 0.75–0.96). Additionally, sex and age differences were observed in the association between time spent outdoors and the PD risk. Moreover, Time spent outdoors was observed to be positively associated with serum vitamin D levels. Compared with serum vitamin D-deficient participants, the risk of PD was reduced by 15% in the sufficient participants.

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41746-024-01135-3

Association of physical activity pattern and risk of Parkinson's disease

Check for updates

Fabin Lin^{1,2,3,4,5}, Yixiang Lin^{1,2,3,5}, Lina Chen^{1,2,3,5}, Tingting Huang^{1,2,3}, Tianxin Lin^{1,2,3}, Jiarui He^{1,2,3}, Xiaoyang Lu^{1,2,3}, Xiaochun Chen^{1,2,3}, Yingqing Wang^{1,2,3}, Qinyong Ye^{1,2,3} & Guoen Cai^{1,2,3}

Increasing evidence suggests an association between exercise duration and Parkinson's disease. However, no high-quality prospective evidence exists confirming whether differences exist between the two modes of exercise, weekend warrior and equal distribution of exercise duration, and Parkinson's risk. Hence, this study aimed to explore the association between different exercise patterns and Parkinson's risk using exercise data from the UK Biobank. The study analyzed data from 89,400 UK Biobank participants without Parkinson's disease. Exercise data were collected using the Axivity AX3 wrist-worn triaxial accelerometer. Participants were categorized into three groups: inactive, regularly active, and engaged in the weekend warrior (WW) pattern. The relationship between these exercise patterns and Parkinson's risk was assessed using a multifactorial Cox model. During a mean follow-up of 12.32 years, 329 individuals developed Parkinson's disease. In a multifactorial Cox model, using the World Health Organization–recommended threshold of 150 min of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per week, both the active WW group [hazard ratio (HR) = 0.58; 95% confidence interval (CI) = 0.43–0.78; $P < 0.001$] and the active regular group (HR = 0.44; 95% CI = 0.34–0.57; $P < 0.001$) exhibited a lower risk of developing Parkinson's disease compared with the inactive group. Further, no statistically significant difference was observed between the active WW and the active regular groups (HR = 0.77; 95% CI = 0.56–1.05; $P = 0.099$). In conclusion, in this cohort study, both the WW exercise pattern and an equal distribution of exercise hours were equally effective in reducing Parkinson's risk.

Parkinson's Disease Symptoms



Clinical Trial Highlight

Clinical Trial Highlights – Interventions Promoting Physical Activity in Parkinson's Disease

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Pre-press 28 April 2023
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Abstract. Despite increasing evidence on exercise in Parkinson's disease (PD) it remains unclear what type and intensity of exercise are most effective. Currently, most evidence favors moderate- to high-intensity aerobic exercise for its positive effects on motor symptoms as well as disease modifying potential. On the other hand, observational studies have shown that the sheer volume of exercise matters as well, independent of intensity. So far, the efficacy of the volume of exercise has not been confirmed by randomized controlled trials (RCTs). Here, we provide an overview of the ongoing RCTs that promote physical activity in daily life in PD. We found seven RCTs with sample sizes between 30 and 452 and a follow-up between 4 weeks and 12 months. Steps per day is the most commonly reported primary outcome measure. The ongoing RCTs will provide evidence for feasibility, whereafter the PD research field is ready for a next step and to explore the effect of physical activity on disease progression and PD symptoms.

INTRODUCTION

There is increasing evidence and marked interest for non-pharmacological interventions in people with Parkinson's disease (PD), especially exercise [1]. Moderate- to high-intensity exercise has beneficial effects on motor symptoms [2, 3] with seemingly the most potent effect from high-intensity exercise [2, 4]. Exercise also positively impacts non-motor symptoms such as depression [5, 6] and cognition [7, 8]. Even though clinical trials mostly apply a high-intensity exercise intervention, this type of exercise could be challenging for people with a neurological disease like PD. They may be confronted with multiple barriers due to motor symptoms or non-motor symptoms, such as fatigue and apathy [9]. Different studies also indicate a potential disease-modifying

effect from low-intensity exercise or an increase of sheer volume of physical activity. For example, a recent systematic review and meta-analysis shows that low-intensity exercise improves neuroplasticity in patients with neurological disease, including PD, with an equal effect compared to high-intensity exercise [10]. Moreover, observational studies indicate an inverse association between the volume of physical activity and the incidence of PD [11–16] and show that people with PD who are more active, have a slower deterioration of PD symptoms (e.g. gait stability, activities of daily living, and processing speed) [17]. Even reduced mortality rates have been reported, accompanied by a dose-response association, regardless of the intensity [18]. Nonetheless, clinical trials focusing solely on the effect of a higher volume of low-intensity exercise are lacking.

RESEARCH ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

Long-term Effect of Regular Physical Activity and Exercise Habits in Patients With Early Parkinson Disease

Kazuto Tsukita, MD, Haruhi Sakamaki-Tsukita, MD, and Ryosuke Takahashi, MD, PhD

Neurology® 2022;98:e859–e871. doi:10.1212/WNL.00000000000013218

Abstract

Background and Objectives

Owing to the lack of long-term observations or comprehensive adjustment for confounding factors, reliable conclusions regarding long-term effects of exercise and regular physical activity in Parkinson disease (PD) have yet to be drawn. Here, using data from the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative study that includes longitudinal and comprehensive evaluations of many clinical parameters, we examined the long-term effects of regular physical activity and exercise habits on the course of PD.

Methods

In this retrospective, observational cohort study, we primarily used the multivariate linear mixed-effects models to analyze the interaction effects of their regular physical activity and moderate to vigorous exercise levels, measured with the Physical Activity Scale for the Elderly questionnaire, on the progression of clinical parameters, after adjusting for age, sex, levodopa equivalent dose, and disease duration. We also calculated bootstrapping 95% confidence intervals (CIs) and conducted sensitivity analyses using the multiple imputation method and subgroup analyses using propensity score matching to match for all baseline background factors.

Results

Two hundred thirty-seven patients with early PD (median [interquartile range] age, 63.0 [56.0–70.0] years, male 69.2%, follow-up duration 5.0 [4.0–6.0] years) were included. Regular physical activity and moderate to vigorous exercise levels at baseline did not significantly affect the subsequent clinical progression of PD. However, average regular overall physical activity levels over time were significantly associated with slower deterioration of postural and gait stability (standardized fixed-effects coefficients of the interaction term [$\beta_{\text{interaction}}$] = -0.10 [95% CI -0.14 to -0.06]), activities of daily living ($\beta_{\text{interaction}}$ = 0.08 [95% CI 0.04 – 0.12]), and processing speed ($\beta_{\text{interaction}}$ = 0.05 [95% CI 0.03 – 0.08]) in patients with PD. Moderate to vigorous exercise levels were preferentially associated with slower decline of postural and gait stability ($\beta_{\text{interaction}}$ = -0.09 [95% CI -0.13 to -0.05]), and work-related activity levels were primarily associated with slower deterioration of processing speed ($\beta_{\text{interaction}}$ = 0.07 [95% CI 0.04 – 0.09]). Multiple imputation and propensity score matching confirmed the robustness of our results.

Discussion

In the long term, the maintenance of high regular physical activity levels and exercise habits was robustly associated with better clinical course of PD, with each type of physical activity having different effects.

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dal 26/08/23 al 01/09/23



Obiettivi del progetto

-sperimentare i benefici dell'attività fisica per contrastare i sintomi della malattia di Parkinson in alta quota intorno al Monte Bianco;
-condividere l'esperienza con altre persone affette dalla malattia.

L'ambiente montano di grande bellezza, la vita in rifugio, la condivisione della fatica e della soddisfazione nel raggiungere gli obiettivi sono tutti elementi che possono permettere anche a

un malato di Parkinson di godere di un'esperienza di vita a tutti gli effetti unica e indimenticabile. Un trekking, sette giorni di cammino, che parte e termina a Courmayeur attraversando tre nazioni, Italia, Francia e Svizzera e superando due colli a oltre 2500 metri. Un'avventura di rifugio in rifugio che tocca due cittadine sui due opposti versanti: l'esclusiva Courmayeur e la porta del Bianco, patria dell'alpinismo, Chamonix.



Il percorso è stato attentamente studiato tenendo conto delle problematiche legate al Parkinson, del tutto soggettive e di differenti entità. Seguiremo un percorso non troppo impegnativo, dove il dislivello positivo giornaliero sarà compreso fra i 550 e i 750 metri. Saremo inoltre guidati da due "Accompagnatori di media Montagna" del Collegio delle Guide Alpine.

Per informazioni chiamare Dario Bravin al 335 6652033 o inviare una mail a parkinsonetrekking@gmail.com

Predictors of Falls with Injuries in People with Parkinson's Disease

Isabella P.R. Castro, PT, MsC,^{1,2} Guilherme T. Valença, MD, PhD,³ Elen Beatriz Pinto, PT, PhD,^{2,4} Helen M. Cavalcanti, PT, MsC,^{1,2} Jamily Oliveira-Filho, MD, PhD,¹ and Lorena Rosa S. Almeida, PT, PhD^{2,3,*}

ABSTRACT: Background: Falls are frequent in Parkinson's disease (PD), but there is lack of information about predictors of injurious falls. Objectives: To determine predictors of falls with injuries in people with PD; to compare circumstances and consequences of falls in single and recurrent fallers. Methods: Participants (n = 225) were assessed by disease-specific, self-report, and balance measures, and followed-up for 12 months with a diary to record falls, their circumstances, and injuries. Univariate and multivariate analyses were performed. Circumstances and consequences of falls presented by single and recurrent fallers were compared. Results: A total of 805 falls were analyzed, 107 (13%) were falls with injuries. Multivariate logistic regression model revealed that greater PD duration and higher balance confidence were protective factors; better balance during gait, outdoor falls, and falls related to extrinsic factors were risk factors for falls with injuries, when compared to falls with no injuries. Multivariate multinomial regression model revealed that, when compared to zero fall, past falls and daily levodopa equivalent dose were predictors of falls with injuries; these predictors together with disability were predictors of falls with no injuries. Single falls (n = 27; 3%) were more common outdoors because of extrinsic factors, whereas recurrent falls (n = 778; 97%) were more common indoors because of intrinsic factors. Single falls led to more injuries than recurrent falls (P < 0.05). Conclusions: Different predictors of falls with injuries were obtained when different outcomes were compared. It should be noted that falls with injuries might be influenced by fall-related activities and environmental factors. Single and recurrent falls differed on circumstances and consequences.

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> [Gait Posture](#). 2018 Jun;63:104-108. doi: 10.1016/j.gaitpost.2018.04.034. Epub 2018 Apr 24.

Accuracy of wearable physical activity trackers in people with Parkinson's disease

Robyn M Lamont¹, Hannah L Daniel², Caitlyn L Payne², Sandra G Brauer²

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 29729611 DOI: [10.1016/j.gaitpost.2018.04.034](#)



Unione Parkinsoniani
Riabilitazione - par...

Inverse associations of outdoor activity and vitamin D intake with the risk of Parkinson's disease

Dan Zhu¹, Gui-you Liu, Zheng Lv, Shi-rong Wen, Sheng Bi, Wei-zhi Wang

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 25294382 PMCID: [PMC4201321](#) DOI: [10.1631/jzus.B1400005](#)

Abstract

Early studies had suggested that vitamin D intake was inversely associated with neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease and multiple sclerosis. However, the associations of vitamin D intake and outdoor activities with Parkinson's disease (PD) are still unclear, so this study is to evaluate these relationships from a case-control study in elderly Chinese. The study population involved 209 cases with new onsets of PD and 210 controls without neurodegenerative diseases. The data on dietary vitamin D and outdoor activities were collected using a food-frequency questionnaire and self-report questionnaire. Multivariable logistic regressions were used to examine the associations between dietary outdoor activities, vitamin D intake and PD. Adjustment was made for sex, age, smoking, alcohol use, education, and body mass index (BMI). Adjusted odds ratios (ORs) for PD in quartiles for outdoor physical activity were 1 (reference), 0.739 (0.413, 1.321), 0.501 (0.282, 0.891), and 0.437 (0.241, 0.795), respectively (P=0.002 for trend). Adjusted ORs for PD in quartiles for total vitamin D intake were 1 (reference), 0.647 (0.357, 1.170), 0.571 (0.318, 1.022), and 0.538 (0.301, 0.960), respectively (P=0.011 for trend). Our study suggested that outdoor activity and total vitamin D intake were inversely associated with PD, and outdoor activity seems to be more significantly associated with decreased risk for PD.

Impact of a 5-day expedition to machu picchu on persons with multiple sclerosis

Marie Beatrice D'hooghe¹, Peter Feys², Sam Deltour³, Isabelle Van de Putte⁴, Jan De Meue⁵, Daphne Kos⁶, Bert O Eijnde², Paul Van Asch⁷

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 24967103 PMCID: [PMC4055387](#) DOI: [10.1155/2014/761210](#)

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41746-024-01135-3>

Association of physical activity pattern and risk of Parkinson's disease

Check for updates

Fabin Lin^{1,2,3,4,5}, Yixiang Lin^{1,2,3,5}, Lina Chen^{1,2,3,5}, Tingting Huang^{1,2,3}, Tianxin Lin^{1,2,3}, Jiarui He^{1,2,3}, Xiaoyang Lu^{1,2,3}, Xiaochun Chen^{1,2,3}, Yingqing Wang^{1,2,3} , Qinyong Ye & Guoen Cai

Increasing evidence suggests an association between exercise duration and Parkinson's disease. However, no high-quality prospective evidence exists confirming whether differences exist between the two modes of exercise, weekend warrior and equal distribution of exercise duration, and Parkinson's risk. Hence, this study aimed to explore the association between different exercise patterns and Parkinson's risk using exercise data from the UK Biobank. The study analyzed data from 89,400 UK Biobank participants without Parkinson's disease. Exercise data were collected using the Axivity AX3 wrist-worn triaxial accelerometer. Participants were categorized into three groups: inactive, regularly active, and engaged in the weekend warrior (WW) pattern. The relationship between these exercise patterns and Parkinson's risk was assessed using a multifactorial Cox model. During a mean follow-up of 12.32 years, 329 individuals developed Parkinson's disease. In a multifactorial Cox model, using the World Health Organization-recommended threshold of 150 min of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per week, both the active WW group [hazard ratio (HR) = 0.58; 95% confidence interval (CI) = 0.43–0.78; $P < 0.001$] and the active regular group (HR = 0.44; 95% CI = 0.34–0.57; $P < 0.001$) exhibited a lower risk of developing Parkinson's disease compared with the inactive group. Further, no statistically significant difference was observed between the active WW and the active regular groups (HR = 0.77; 95% CI = 0.56–1.05; $P = 0.099$). In conclusion, in this cohort study, both the WW exercise pattern and an equal distribution of exercise hours were equally effective in reducing Parkinson's risk.

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a neurodegenerative disorder characterized by muscle tonus, slow movements, postural instability, and resting tremors. PD affects more than 4.1 million people globally, mostly individuals older than 50 years. The number of affected individuals is expected to reach 8.7–9.3 million by 2030¹. PD is a multifactorial disease influenced by genetic predisposition, environmental factors, and lifestyle choices, including daily exercise^{2,3}. Given the significant burden of PD, identifying risk factors and developing preventive interventions are crucial public health priorities.

Increasing evidence indicates that exercise not only reduces the risk of PD but also holds significant implications for relieving symptoms in patients with PD and preventing depression associated with the disease^{4,5}. The World Health Organization guidelines recommend 150 min of moderate-

to-vigorous physical exercise (MVPA) each week⁶. Several cohort studies have shown that individuals who complete the majority of their weekly exercise in 1–2 days (weekend warriors) experience similar benefits in terms of reducing cardiovascular disease, depression, and various other disorders compared with those who evenly distribute their exercise time throughout the week^{7–10}. However, no research has been conducted to determine which pattern of exercise is more effective in lowering the risk of PD and whether the number of hours of activity per week is evenly distributed or concentrated on 1 or 2 days. Consequently, participants were categorized into active and inactive groups, with the active group further divided into an active regular group and an active WW group based on the distribution of exercise time⁸.

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Inverse associations of outdoor activity and vitamin D intake with the risk of Parkinson's disease

Dan Zhu ¹, Gui-you Liu, Zheng Lv, Shi-rong Wen, Sheng Bi, Wei-zhi Wang

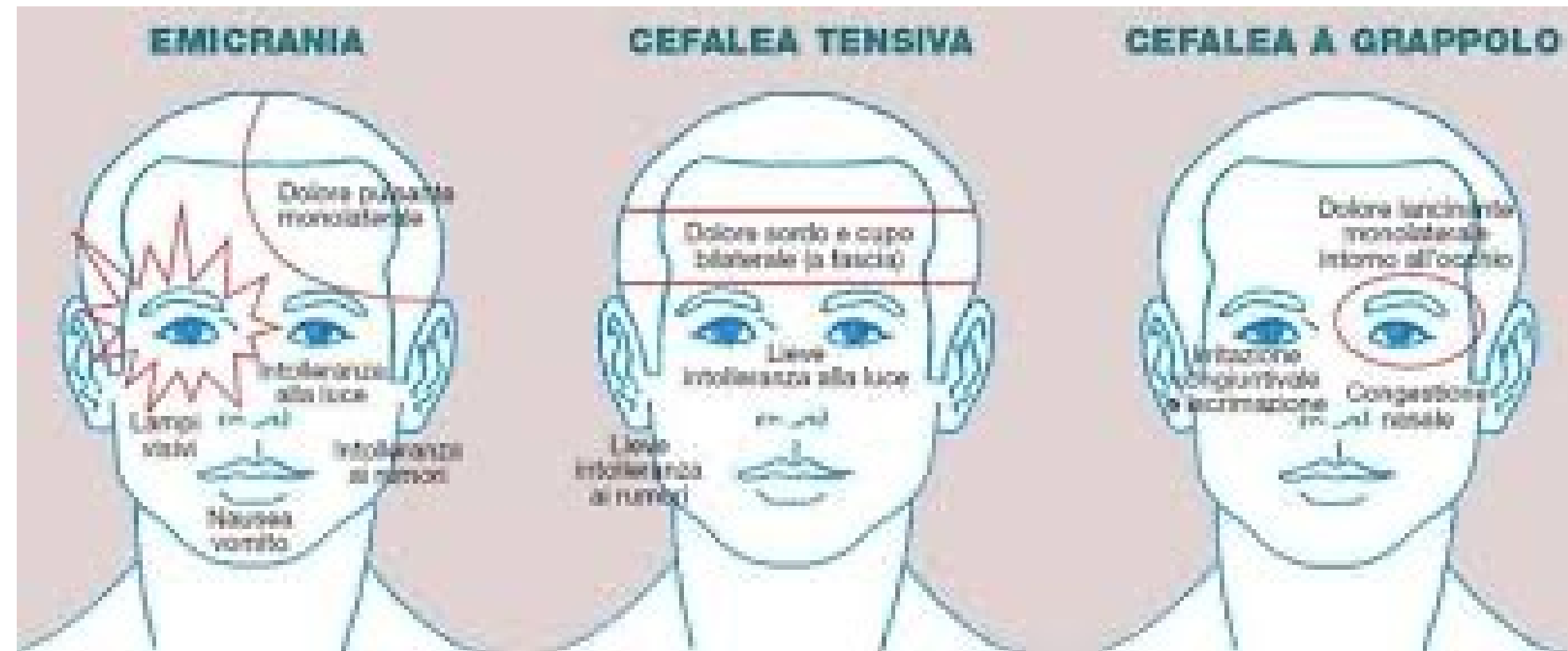
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PMID: 25294382 PMCID: PMC4201321 DOI: 10.1631/jzus.B1400005

Abstract

Early studies had suggested that vitamin D intake was inversely associated with neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease and multiple sclerosis. However, the associations of vitamin D intake and outdoor activities with Parkinson's disease (PD) are still unclear, so this study is to evaluate these relationships from a case-control study in elderly Chinese. The study population involved 209 cases with new onsets of PD and 210 controls without neurodegenerative diseases. The data on dietary vitamin D and outdoor activities were collected using a food-frequency questionnaire and self-report questionnaire. Multivariable logistic regressions were used to examine the associations between dietary outdoor activities, vitamin D intake and PD. Adjustment was made for sex, age, smoking, alcohol use, education, and body mass index (BMI). Adjusted odds ratios (ORs) for PD in quartiles for outdoor physical activity were 1 (reference), 0.739 (0.413, 1.321), 0.501 (0.282, 0.891), and 0.437 (0.241, 0.795), respectively ($P=0.002$ for trend). Adjusted ORs for PD in quartiles for total vitamin D intake were 1 (reference), 0.647 (0.357, 1.170), 0.571 (0.318, 1.022), and 0.538 (0.301, 0.960), respectively ($P=0.011$ for trend). Our study suggested that outdoor activity and total vitamin D intake were inversely associated with PD, and outdoor activity seems to be more significantly associated with decreased risk for PD.

EMICRANIA



Demenze

Study 1: Cognitive Enhancements from Outdoor Exercise

Boere et al. (2023) demonstrated that a brief, 15-minute walk in a natural environment can significantly enhance cognitive function, as evidenced by increased P300 amplitude and reduced reaction times in cognitive tasks. The P300 component is crucial for attention and working memory, indicating that natural environments may help restore cognitive resources depleted by mental fatigue. The study's results suggest that the outdoor environment plays a substantial role in cognitive enhancement, potentially due to the restorative effects of nature, which align with the Attention Restoration Theory (ART).

Key statistical results included:

- A significant interaction between walking location and time for reaction time ($p = 0.05$), showing decreased reaction times only for outdoor walks.
- A significant interaction for P300 amplitude ($p = 0.025$), with increased amplitudes observed only after outdoor walks.

These findings suggest that even short bouts of **exercise in natural settings can provide cognitive benefits** that are not achieved by similar exercise in indoor settings.

Study 2: Psychological Benefits of Natural Environments

Wicks et al. (2022) provided a comprehensive comparison of the psychological benefits of physical activity in natural versus urban settings. The review included a variety of physical activities, predominantly walking, and measured outcomes such as anxiety, depression, and mood states. The narrative synthesis and meta-analysis showed that natural environments significantly enhance psychological wellbeing compared to urban environments.

News

L'uomo che per sconfiggere l'Alzheimer ogni giorno scala la stessa montagna

Redazione · 2 Aprile 2018

0 1 minute read



📷 Sion Jair sulla cima dell'Old Man of Coniston. Foto @ The Big Issue



1
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1

Influence of Outdoor Activity and Indoor Activity on Cognition Decline: Use of an Infrared Sensor to Measure Activity

Authors: [Toshiro Suzuki](#), and [Sumio Murase](#) | [AUTHORS INFO & AFFILIATIONS](#)

Publication: Telemedicine and e-Health • <https://doi.org/10.1089/tmj.2009.0175>

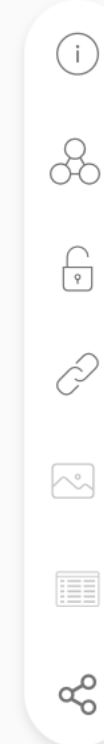
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Abstract

Objective: The increasing number of dementia patients causes serious social problems. Previously, we reported that elderly individuals with cognitive impairment show a low frequency of activity. This study was designed to investigate the correlation of daily activity to the decline in cognitive function. **Methods:** The study enrolled 53 elderly who live alone. The cognitive function of subjects was assessed by the mini-mental state examination (MMSE) before the investigation. Passive infrared sensors were installed in the subjects' houses. The subjects' in-house movements were recorded by the sensors for ~1 year. The activities of daily life were assessed, based on these records. The subjects' cognitive function was assessed again after the investigation and categorized into two groups: the cognition decline group (MMSE score: <24, n = 6) and the normal group (MMSE score: over 24, n = 44). The activity parameters were compared between the two groups. **Results:** The subjects in the cognition decline group had a significantly lower number of outings (8.8 vs. 17.3, $p < 0.01$) and there was no cognition decline in patients in the frequent outings group (over 20 outings per month). In addition, the indoor movement decreased in the cognition decline group during the study period and the indoor movement of the normal group was maintained at the baseline level. **Conclusions:** This study objectively evaluated the behavior of elderly individuals with infrared sensors and revealed that elderly people who have few occasions to go out tend to show a decrease in cognitive function.



Is Better for Cognitive I

production cycles. Through such experiences, kids can learn how to deal with complex situations under the...

The effect of outdoor activities on the medical expenditure of older people: multiple chain mediating effects of health benefits

[Ge Zhu](#) 

[BMC Public Health](#) **24**, Article number: 1227 (2024) | [Cite this article](#)

Región Autonoma Vallée d'Aoste  Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta

nomia Valle d'Aosta

ATICI ▾ SERVIZI ▾ AVVISI E DOCUMENTI ▾ OPPORTUNITÀ DALLE SOCIETÀ PARTECIPATE ▾    

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Demenze e disturbi cognitivi

PIANO TRIENNALE DI ATTIVITÀ CONCERNENTE LE DEMENZE E I DISTURBI COGNITIVI

Il piano di attività finanziato con il Fondo per l'Alzheimer e le demenze 2021-2023 approvato con DGR 900 – 8 agosto 2022:



Deliberazione della Giunta regionale n. 900, in data 8 agosto 2022 - Approvazione del Piano regionale di attività per l'alzheimer e le demenze ai sensi del d.m. 23 dicembre 2021. Prenotazione di spesa.

(9624 Kb)

La cabina di regia a coordinamento regionale, supervisionata dal tavolo permanente delle demenze ha analizzato i dati della Valle d'Aosta come punto di partenza per lo sviluppo della progettazione del piano. Considerando la popolazione al 1 gennaio 2022 (dati ISTAT), su 123.337 abitanti la stima dei casi, applicando i tassi di prevalenza per demenza (Bacigalupo et al) e MCI (Sachdev et al) alla popolazione regionale, è di 2410 casi di demenza e di 2056 con MCI. Il piano ha dunque previsto per il triennio in corso di sviluppare e potenziare inizialmente la seguente rete di servizi:

- **Il CDCD, Centro Disturbi Cognitivi e Demenze** presso la sede ospedaliera del Beauregard, costituita da un'équipe multidisciplinare che si occupa della diagnosi e della promozione dei progetti terapeutici individualizzati dedicati ai pazienti e ai loro famigliari;
- **La Palestra della Mente** nelle sedi di Morgex, Aosta e Chatillon, terapia di stimolazione cognitiva;
- **"A casa è Meglio"**, servizio domiciliare di formazione e sostegno dei famigliari e dei care givers dei pazienti affetti da decadimento cognitivo;
- **La montagna terapia**, risposta sperimentale alle problematiche legate al decadimento cognitivo.

Epilessia

Table 1. Drugs used for prevention and treatment of high-altitude illnesses and interaction with drugs used in neurological conditions.

DRUGS	POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS AND INTERACTION
Acetazolamide (AMS, HACE prevention and AMS treatment)	Increased risk of salicylate toxicity in those taking Aspirin high dose (>300 mg/daily) Increased CBZ, PHT concentration Increased lithium excretion Possible increased suicidal risk in those on antiepileptic medications In association with several AEDs increased risk of osteomalacia Reduced serum and sodium potassium level Increased risk of metabolic acidosis and heat stroke in those on topiramate treatment Hyponatremia risk in association with duloxetine
Dexamethasone (AMS, HACE prevention and treatment)	Decreased Aspirin (or NSAIDs) level and can increase gastrointestinal symptoms: inflammation, bleeding, ulceration/perforation Decrease alprazolam concentration (induction of cytochrome P450) Altered behavior including state of agitation, euphoria, sleep disorders (restlessness and insomnia) Psychic effects: mania, psychosis, delirium, emotional lability and irritability, rarely altered consciousness and disorientation Drugs that induce cytochrome P450 3A4 reduce corticosteroid levels (phenytoin, carbamazepine, diphenylhydantoin, barbiturates) Enhanced coumarin anticoagulants (e.g., warfarin) activity May reduce the effect of anticholinergic drugs (trihexyphenidyl and biperiden) and cholinesterase inhibitors (rivastigmine, donepezil, and galantamine)
Nifedipine (HAPE prevention and treatment)	Increased metabolic clearance is induced by cytochrome inducers AEDs (PHT, CBZ, PB) while cytochrome inhibitors (VPA) and antidepressant (fluoxetine, nefazodone) increase the nifedipine concentration May trigger migraine crisis in migraine subjects with low threshold
Tadalafil/Sildenafil (HAPE prevention)	Caution in patients treated with CYP3A4 inducers (CBZ, PB, PHT, dexamethasone) since tadalafil plasmatic concentration can be reduced May induce headache
Salmeterol (HAPE prevention)	Caution in patients treated with CYP3A4 inducers (CBZ, PB, PHT, dexamethasone), CYP3A4 inhibitors (antidepressants) and with MAO-I (monoamine oxidase inhibitors) or TCA (tricyclic antidepressant) for cardiovascular side effects Can cause headache and tremor
Aspirin	Gastrointestinal ulcers associated with stress
Benzodiazepine	Sleep apneas and sleep disturbances Ocular and respiratory dysfunction in myasthenic patients Dependance can be given mainly by lorazepam in aged individuals

INSIEME SULLA NEVE PER L'EPILESSIA
Sabato 12 febbraio 2022

PROGRAMMA
SABATO 12 FEBBRAIO 2022
- 08:00: Incontro di benvenuto
- 09:00: Meeting con Carlo Falcini
- 10:00: Meeting con il gruppo di esperti
- 11:00: Meeting con il gruppo di esperti
- 12:00: Meeting con il gruppo di esperti
- 13:00: Meeting con il gruppo di esperti
- 14:00: Meeting con il gruppo di esperti
- 15:00: Meeting con il gruppo di esperti
- 16:00: Meeting con il gruppo di esperti
- 17:00: Meeting con il gruppo di esperti
- 18:00: Meeting con il gruppo di esperti
- 19:00: Meeting con il gruppo di esperti
- 20:00: Meeting con il gruppo di esperti
- 21:00: Meeting con il gruppo di esperti
- 22:00: Meeting con il gruppo di esperti
- 23:00: Meeting con il gruppo di esperti
- 00:00: Meeting con il gruppo di esperti

LOGO DI STRONG

RICERCA E CONTRA

50 million

Kiwanis ONTI

L'epilessia può colpire chiunque!

La Lega contro l'epilessia
ricerca – aiuto – informa

Circa l'1% della popolazione soffre di epilessia. In Italia, si stima che siano affetti da questa malattia circa 1 milione di persone. Dal 1993, la Lega contro l'Epilessia ha promosso e supportato le attività di ricerca e di sensibilizzazione dell'epilessia, con particolare attenzione al miglioramento della qualità della vita dei pazienti e dei loro familiari. La Lega contro l'Epilessia è un'organizzazione specializzata che si occupa di fornire informazioni e supporto ai pazienti e ai loro familiari. La Lega contro l'Epilessia è un'organizzazione specializzata che si occupa di fornire informazioni e supporto ai pazienti e ai loro familiari.



Sonno

Curiosità Salute

Vacanza in montagna: attenzione all'insonnia da altitudine

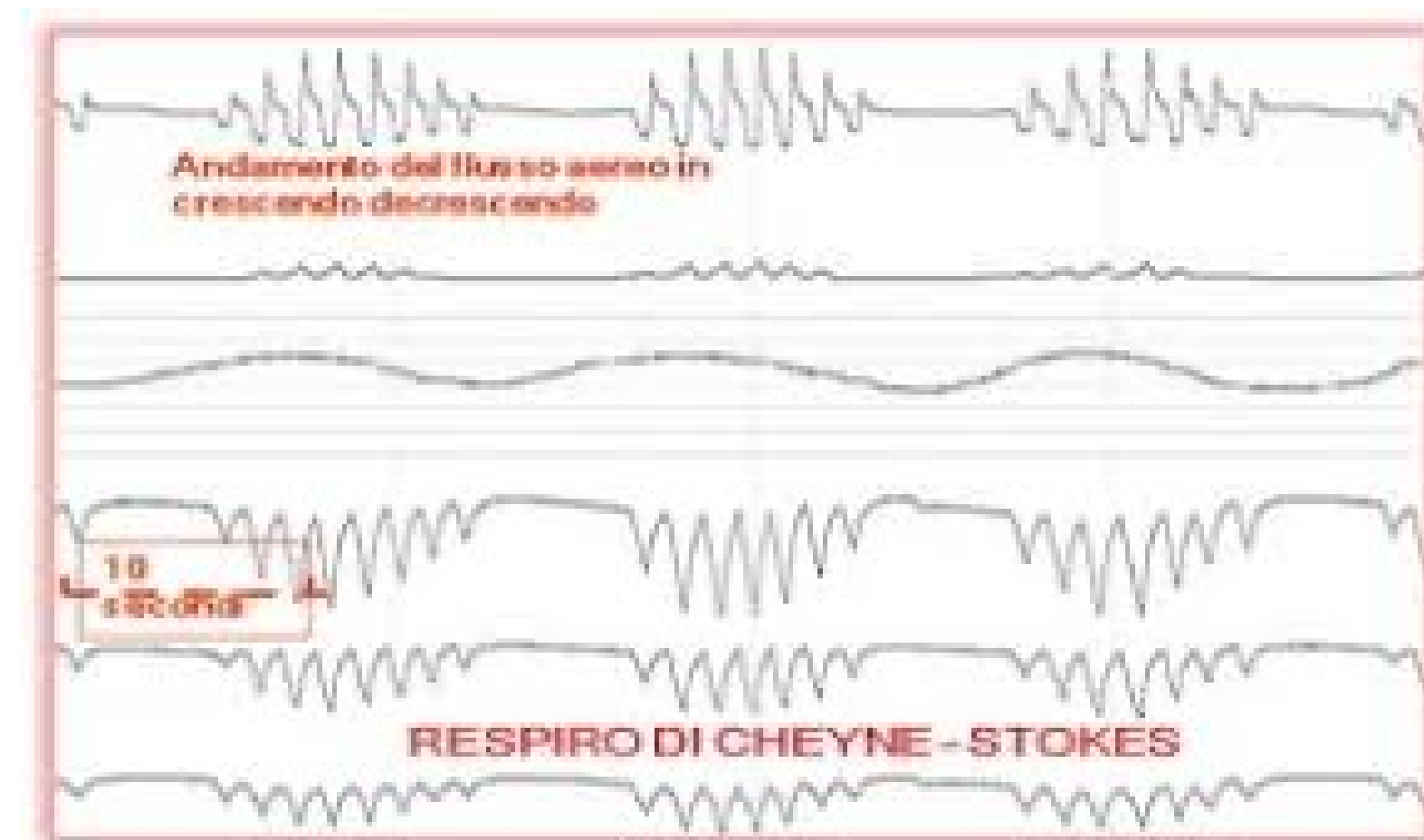


L'**altitudine** può incidere sul **sonno**? Secondo alcune recenti ricerche, sì. Alcune persone, infatti, sono più sensibili all'altitudine, ed il loro sonno in tenda o in rifugio potrebbe essere superficiale o frammentato: un disturbo chiamato "insonnia da altitudine". (leggi anche qui [insonnia: 10 buone regole da seguire](#))

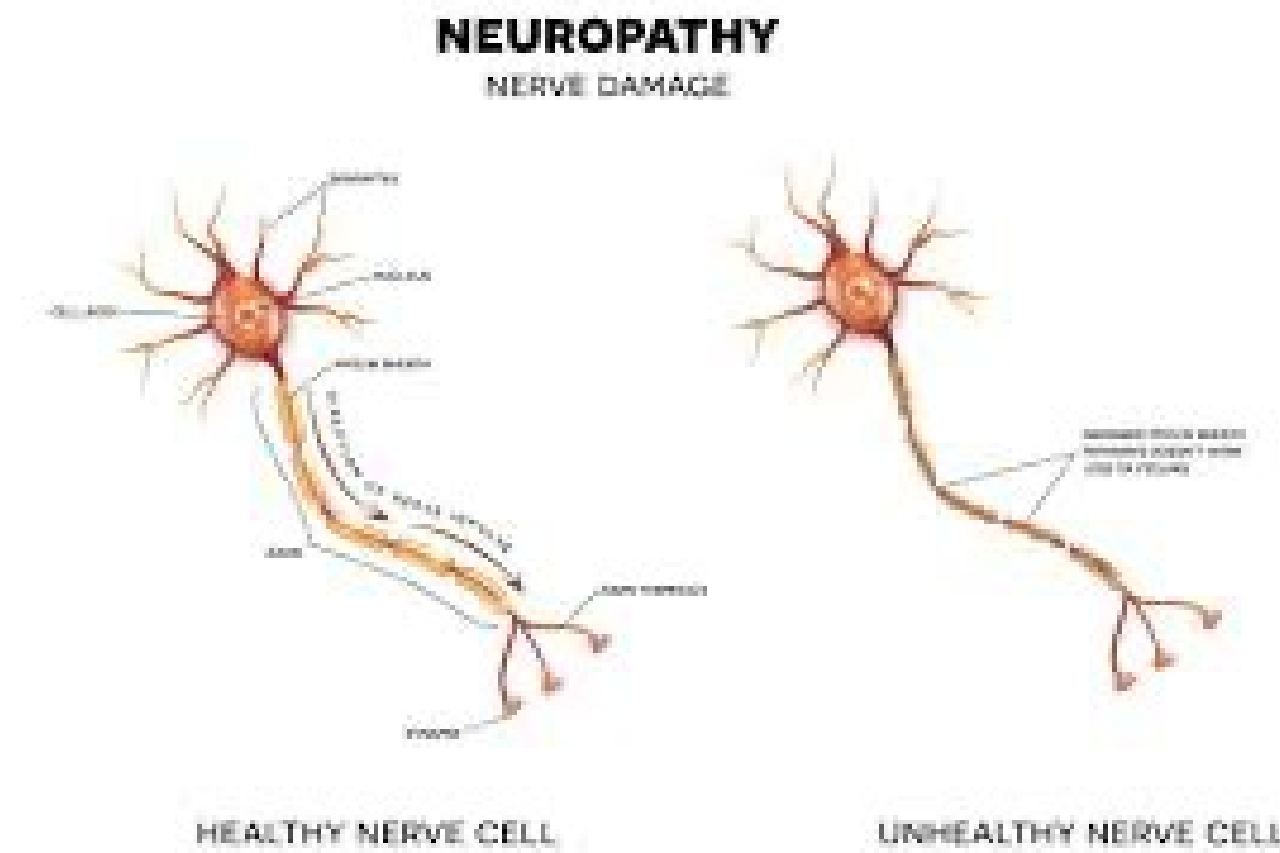
Oltre al sonno tormentato, altri i disturbi si manifestano tramite frequenti **apnee notturne**, con ripetuti risvegli e stanchezza al mattino. Quando succede, l'organismo si trova a vivere una condizione di **stress** diffuso, che crea **tensione** e malessere. E' un disturbo legato al più generale "mal di montagna".

Cause dell'insonnia da altitudine

Ma a cosa sono dovuti questi disturbi? Tutto è dovuto alla **diminuzione dell'ossigeno nel sangue**, che, sopra dei **1200 metri**, non solo modifica la regolare architettura del sonno, ma fa insorgere anche dei leggeri periodi di **apnea** (assenza di respiro), cioè momenti in cui la



Disturbi periferici e neuromuscolari



CONCLUSIONI:

Table 3. Recommendations for HA exposure for neurological patients.

RECOMMENDATIONS	NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS
Absolute contraindications	• Unstable conditions, such as recent strokes
	• Diabetic neuropathy
	• TIA in the last months
	• Brain tumors
Relative contraindications ^a	• Neuromuscular disorders, with a decrease of FVC of >60%
	• Epilepsy based on seizure recurrence of and stabilization with the therapy
	• Parkinson's disease (±OSAS)
	• Mild Cognitive Impairment (±OSAS)
	• PFO and migraine have to be considered as a risk factor for AMS

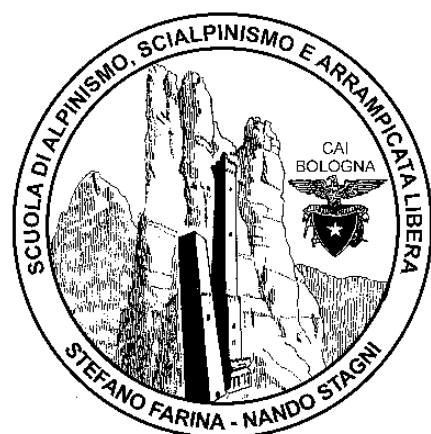
^apersonalized decision has to be made after careful evaluation by a neurologist expert in the field.
AMS: acute mountain sickness; FVC: forced vital capacity; OSAS: obstructive sleep apnea syndrome; PFO: patent foramen ovale; TIA: transient ischemic attack.

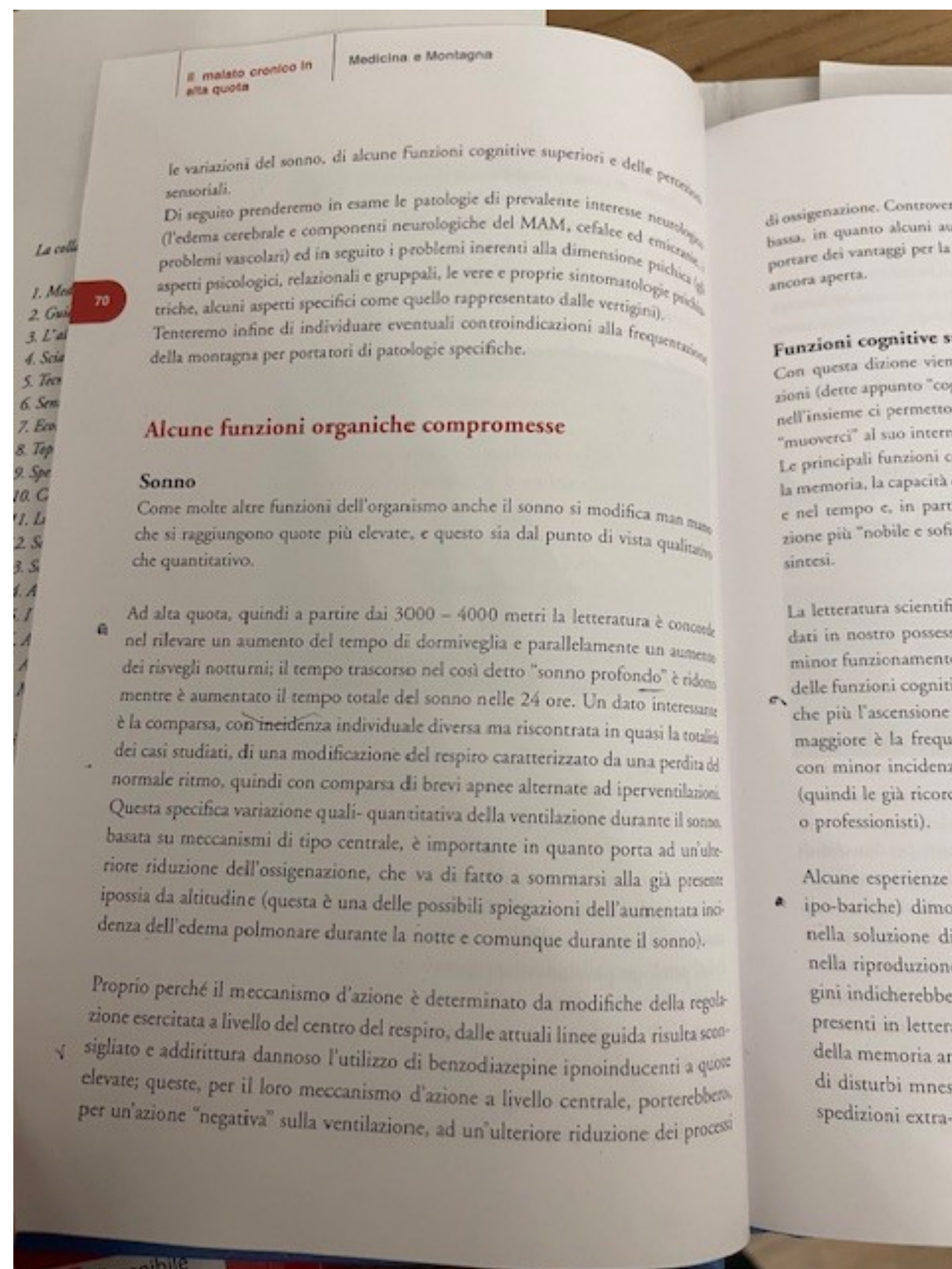
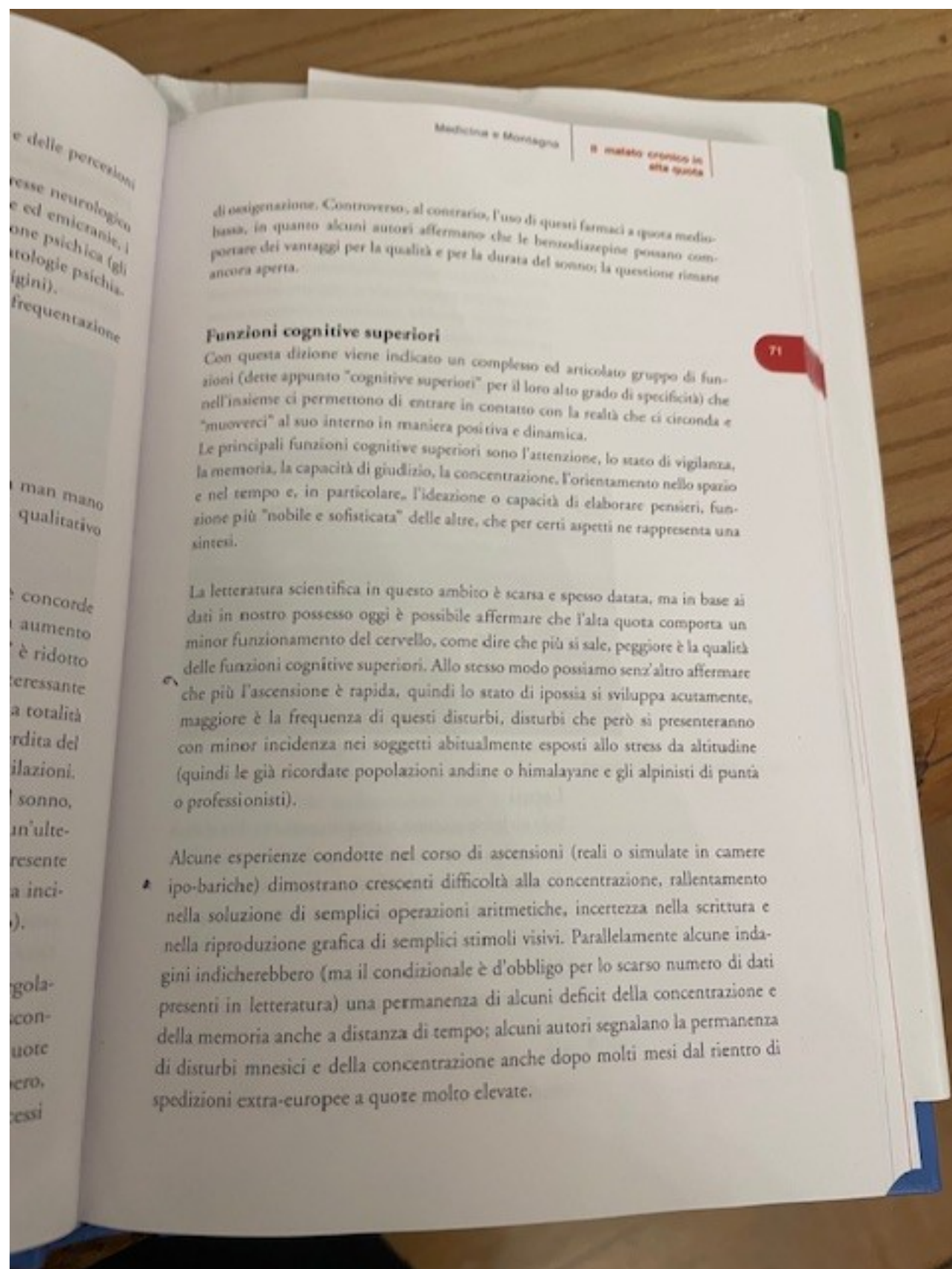
CONCLUSIONI:

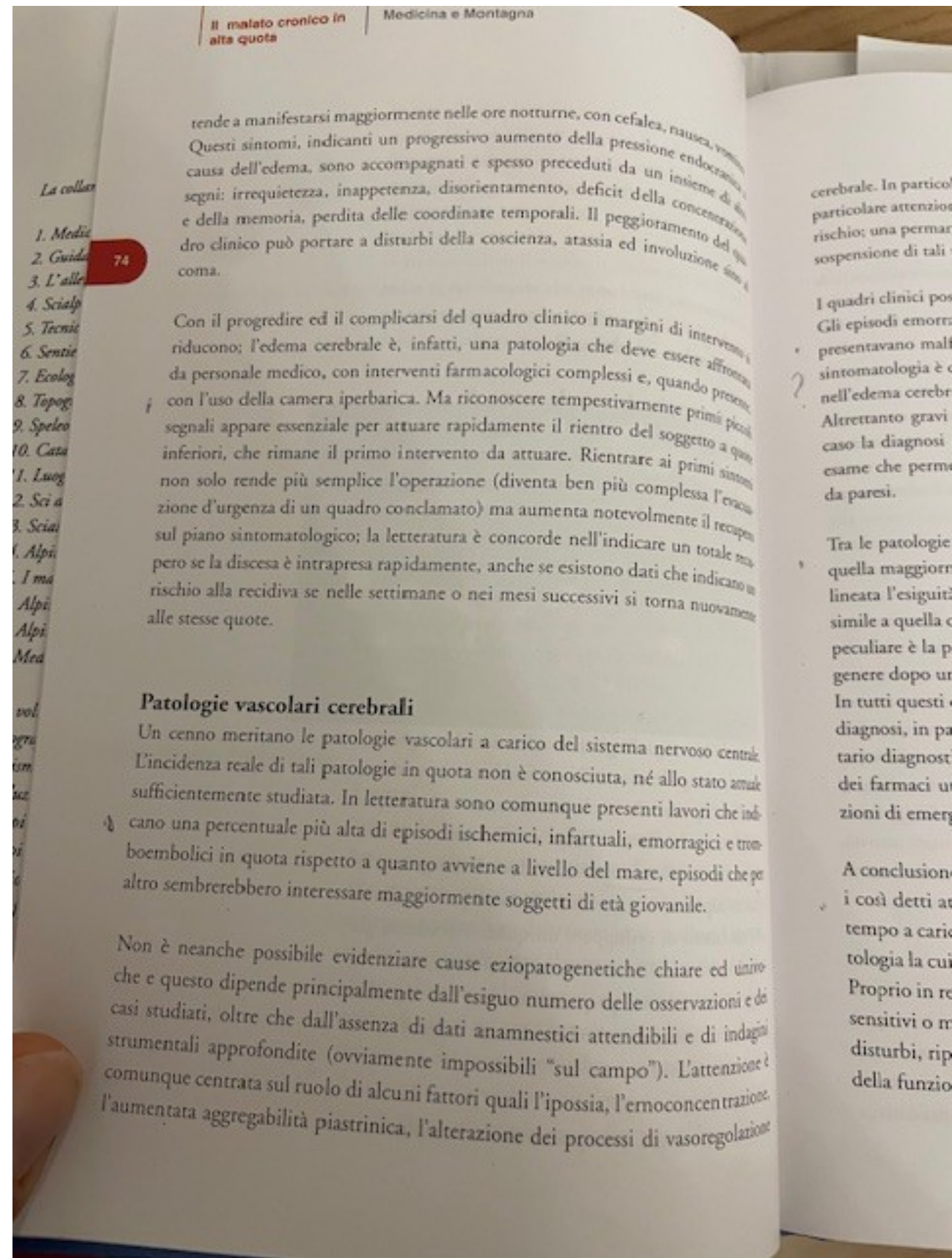
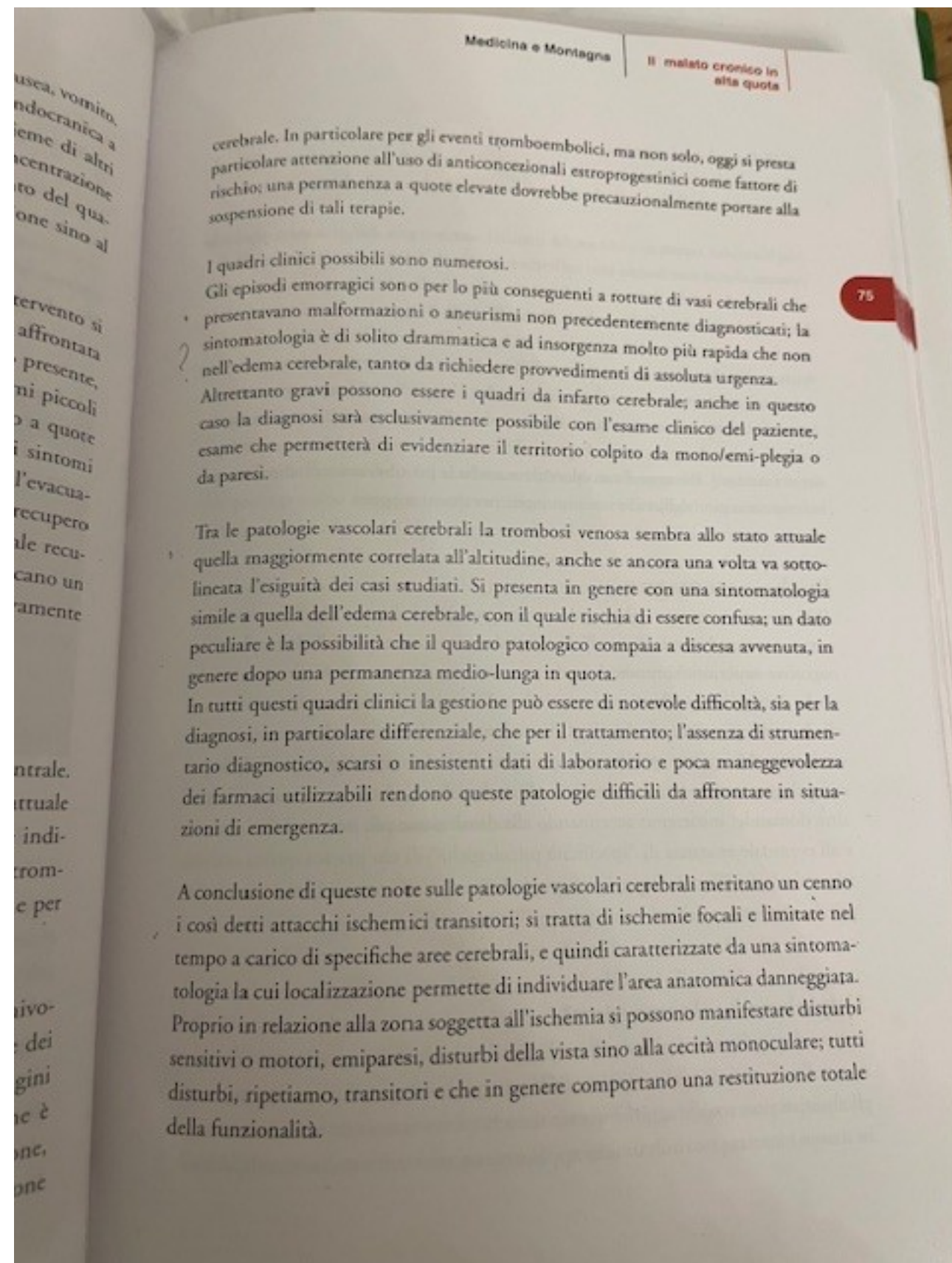
- Quali dati sulla media quota?
- Quanto pensiamo in termini di HA ?



GRAZIE DELL'ATTENZIONE....







idratazione, che agisce nello stesso senso, il freddo, che riduce il flusso sanguigno. Per quanto riguarda l'effetto dell'ipossia sulla coagulazione si veda anche il Capitolo 5.

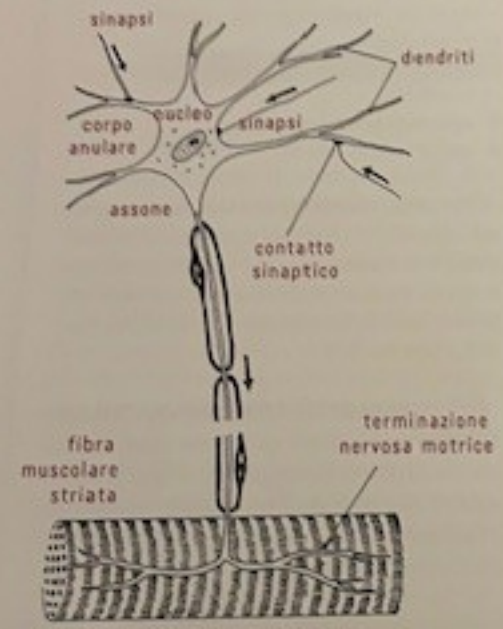


Figura 10.10 - Le cellule del sistema nervoso sono dotate di un corpo cellulare e di prolungamenti che ricevono e propagano i segnali nervosi inviandoli agli organi o alle strutture competenti (in questo schema il muscolo). La propagazione dell'impulso nervoso è resa possibile dalla presenza delle sinapsi, cioè dei punti attraverso i quali l'impulso nervoso si sposta da una cellula all'altra.

contemporanea ad altri fattori scatenanti (se sono). Va anche ricordato che i soggetti emicranici hanno un rischio maggiore di eventi cerebrovascolari e durante un prolungato soggiorno ad alta quota devono evitare l'esposizione ad altri fattori di rischio quali il fumo di sigaretta, l'assunzione di estrogeni, la disidratazione.

EPILESSIA

L'iperventilazione, la conseguente alcalosi respiratoria e l'ipossia stessa possono costituire dei fattori di rischio per una crisi epilettica. L'effetto dell'ipossia è stato però dimostrato solo in ricerche condotte su aviatori, quindi in soggetti esposti a ipossia severa e acuta, cosa che difficilmente accade in montagna.

Pur in assenza di chiare evidenze di un effetto proepilettico dell'alta quota, vanno sottolineati i rischi a cui può essere esposto un soggetto in caso di crisi epilettica durante un'ascensione o in zone remote.

Anche se aneddoticamente è riferito che i soggetti epilettici in terapia e che non hanno crisi da almeno 6 mesi non presentano un aumentato rischio in alta quota, solo lo specialista che ha in cura il paziente potrà decidere insieme a lui come comportarsi. Un consulto neurologico ed eventuali valutazioni approfondite vanno richiesti anche da chi ha avuto in passato delle crisi epilettiche (anche una sola) e non sta assumendo alcuna terapia.

Secondo una recente pubblicazione chi ha sofferto almeno una volta di un evento epilettico deve seguire le seguenti regole:

- salire lentamente senza superare i 300

- m di dislivello al giorno e avoid disease.
- evitare tabacco, alcool, sonniferi.
- evitare esercizio fisico intenso.
- 24 ore dall'arrivo in quota, curare l'idratazione;
- assumere farmaci per la prevenzione di questa patologia.

MALATTIE DELL'OCCHIO

L'unica patologia oculare che si manifesta in alta quota è un retinopatia (meno di 3 mesi) alla retina gas intraoculare (Figura 10.11). Se l'ipossia (con le già esaminate interdipendenze con le variazioni termiche e di pressione atmosferica) domina il campo nella genesi dei disturbi neurologici, aspetti psichici (e psicopatologici) dell'andare in montagna risentono anche altri fattori legati alle caratteristiche dell'ambiente, alla presenza di specifici rischi alle relazioni interpersonali che si stabiliscono ecc.

- hanno una patologia oculare;
- utilizzano lenti a contatto;
- si sono sottoposti a un intervento chirurgico;
- hanno familiarità per malattie del sistema circolatorio;
- soffrono di diabete mellito o di ipertensione arteriosa.

OCCHIO SECCO

La ridotta umidità, il vento, la radiazione ultravioletta, tutti fattori che agiscono in sinergia, possono peggiorare la situazione di occhio secco (vedi anche Capitolo 5). Soffrono di questa patologia anche gli alpinisti che in alta quota utilizzano occhiali protettivi, che in alcuni casi, possono essere fonte di contaminazione.

PATOLOGIE NEUROLOGICHE E PSICHIATRICHE

di Sandro Carpineta

Qui sulla collina dormo malinconico eppure è luce ormai nei miei pensieri. Fabrizio de André

Individuare la vicinanza o la lontananza tra Neurologia e Psichiatria è da sempre uno dei problemi (non certo tra i principali) della medicina; ovviamente il problema si ripropone anche affrontando il settore particolare della Medicina di Montagna.

Infatti, se da una parte alcuni elementi accomunano queste due aree della medicina, altri presentano aspetti peculiari che tendono indubbiamente a differenziare le cause etiologiche della patologia ed azioni da intraprendere per la loro risoluzione. Se l'ipossia (con le già esaminate interdipendenze con le variazioni termiche e di pressione atmosferica) domina il campo nella genesi dei disturbi neurologici, aspetti psichici (e psicopatologici) dell'andare in montagna risentono anche altri fattori legati alle caratteristiche dell'ambiente, alla presenza di specifici rischi alle relazioni interpersonali che si stabiliscono ecc.

Quindi il sistema nervoso e quello psichico si troveranno in questo breve capitolo ora vicini ed accomunati, ora ben differenziati se non addirittura apparentemente lontani.

Semplicisticamente potremmo definire il Sistema Nervoso come la vera e propria "centralina di comando" del nostro organismo, che si differenzia nel Sistema Nervoso Centrale, rappresentato principalmente dal cervello e nel Sistema Nervoso Periferico costituito da un complesso apparato di terminazioni nervose che hanno il compito di inviare messaggi (è il caso dei nervi che regolano e sovrintendono il movimento) o di riceverne dall'esterno (nervi sensitivi). I due sistemi sono strettamente integrati tra loro e "dialogano" continuamente.

Diverso è il modello a cui possiamo far riferimento per descrivere la

dell'uomo; e questo soprattutto per l'assenza di un "luogo" ove collocarlo, dove rintracciarne anatomicamente degli elementi costitutivi. La psiche è da considerarsi come una complessa (ed ancora in buona misura sconosciuta) sintesi di elementi biologici, neurologici, relazionali, emotivi e di rapporto con il mondo che ci circonda: il fascino, la magia di questa sintesi segna anche le difficoltà che si incontrano nello spiegare alcuni disturbi e nell'intervenire sugli stessi.

Influenze ambientali e compromissione di alcune funzioni neurologiche e psichiche

Volentieri si è introdotto il concetto di ambiente e non, come forse sarebbe risultato più semplice, di altitudine. Se esaminiamo cosa accade a livello neurologico e psichico si deve immediatamente far riferimento al problema, legato all'altitudine, dell'ipossia; ma se estendiamo il concetto all'ambiente nel suo insieme, dobbiamo constatare che altri fattori entrano in gioco (il freddo, l'isolamento, la presenza di rischi oggettivi, gli elementi "competitivi", lo sforzo fisico nel suo insieme ecc.).

L'aria che respiriamo contiene una percentuale di ossigeno che tende a ridursi (ipossia) con l'aumentare della quota raggiunta, ma sappiamo anche che questa percentuale risente di altri fattori quali principalmente il freddo (rapporto pressione atmosferica/temperatura), la velocità di ascesa e le capacità adattative individuali. Considerando il contenuto di ossigeno nell'aria possiamo individuare alcune zone, quali quelle di altitudine medio bassa (sotto i 2500 metri), alta (tra i 2500 ed i 3500 metri) e altissima ed estrema (sopra i 3500 metri). Definire questi diversi "settori" ci può essere d'aiuto per individuare alcune specifiche reazioni dell'organismo: ad esempio già attorno ai 2000 metri l'organismo presenta iniziali difficoltà allo sforzo fisico importante e prolungato, così come sappiamo che tali sforzi ad altitudini molto elevate (ad es. spedizioni extra-europee) sono possibili solo per periodi brevi ed inseriti in un programma di opportuna acclimatazione. In altri settori dell'organismo l'ipossia comporta problemi di varia natura, ma in questa sede prendiamo in esame le variazioni fisiologiche e fisiopatologiche a carico del Sistema Nervoso.

Il cervello è un organo "alto utilizzatore" di ossigeno, essenziale per i processi metabolici alla base dell'ossidazione del glucosio e quindi per il "nutrimento" delle cellule cerebrali (basta pensare che il cervello pesa circa il 2% della massa corporea

ocarla, dove da considerarsi un mondo che oltre che si

totale, ma gli organi di ossigeno e le corre sofferenza cerevello neurologico all'altitudine insieme possono, la pompa del suo fenomeno

In una condurre questa sue capacità di adattamento nel caso

Sono tali elevati, accadono caratteristiche migliori

Per i casi (da c

totale, ma per il suo funzionamento sono necessari fino al 20% dell'ossigeno ed al 25% del glucosio consumati da tutto l'organismo). Ne consegue che è tra gli organi più sensibili alle variazioni di ossigeno e quindi all'ipossia da altitudine. Cosa succede in questa situazione? In termini molto semplici la richiesta di ossigeno non soddisfatta da una parte porta la cellula cerebrale ad uno stato di sofferenza per assenza di un componente essenziale, dall'altra sollecita un tentativo di compensazione attuato attraverso la modificazione della portata sanguigna e le correlate variazioni della permeabilità vascolare. Il primo meccanismo (la sofferenza cellulare) e soprattutto il secondo (aumento del liquido presente nel cervello) sono i principali responsabili delle alterazioni funzionali centrali e, nei casi più importanti, dello sviluppo di vere e proprie patologie neurologiche. Chiaramente questa è una semplificazione di processi di fatto ben più complessi, che possono includere problemi di tipo elettrolitico, come il malfunzionamento della pompa sodio/potassio e del metabolismo del calcio, anch'essi responsabili del fenomeno che vedremo più avanti, rappresentato dallo stato di edema cerebrale.

In una certa misura questi complessi meccanismi, oggi meglio conosciuti e riconducibili a precisi funzionamenti di tipo anatomico, neurofisiologico e biochimico, sono modificabili, o per meglio dire è possibile che l'organismo adatti le sue capacità per fronteggiare il rischio ipossico. Questo può avvenire ovviamente con degli accorgimenti tecnici, il più ovvio dei quali è l'utilizzo di un appropriato abbigliamento e di bombole di ossigeno per affrontare le quote più estreme. Ma quello che da un punto di vista medico risulta di maggiore interesse è l'insieme di adattamenti a cui l'organismo va incontro per fronteggiare una situazione ambientale non favorevole: questo può avvenire per modificazioni congenite o, nel caso dell'alpinista, attraverso modifiche di tipo fisiologico.

Sono note le modificazioni a cui vanno incontro le popolazioni residenti a quote elevate; pur non presentando variazioni sul piano genetico (al contrario di quanto accade per alcune specie animali) le popolazioni andine ed himalayane presentano una sorta di "adattamento congenito", che comporta la modifica di alcune caratteristiche anatomiche, come quelle a livello toracico e polmonare, atte a migliorare la capacità di ventilazione e quindi di ossigenazione del sangue.

Per l'alpinista che solo periodicamente frequenta quote elevate sono invece sostanziali i meccanismi di acclimatazione a cui deve sottoporre il proprio organismo (da qui la necessità di studiare accuratamente velocità e ritmi di un'ascensione).

PATOLOGIE NEUROLOGICHE

GENERALI

- controindicazioni assolute alla salita in alta quota:
- i pazienti con patologie neurologiche instabili poiché i sintomi possono peggiorare;
- i pazienti a elevato rischio di ricaduta di evento cerebrovascolare acuto;

e alcuni farmaci abitualmente utilizzati per le patologie neurologiche, che sono riportati nella Tabella 10.4.

MALATTIE CEREBROVASCOLARI

L'esposizione all'alta quota comporta un aumento di alcuni fattori di rischio che possono essere alla base di eventi cerebrovascolari: l'incremento dei globuli rossi (policitemia), che aumenta la viscosità del sangue; la di-

Farmaco	Interazione
Acetazolamide	Amplifica l'effetto degli anticoagulanti orali, dei barbiturici, della carbamazepina.
Desametasone	Amplifica l'effetto degli anticoagulanti. Aumenta il rischio di emorragie gastrointestinali in pazienti in terapia cronica con aspirina.
Nifedipina	Alcuni farmaci quali la fentoina, la carbamazepina, riducono la concentrazione plasmatica e l'effetto della nifedipina.

Tabella 10.4 - Interazioni tra i farmaci usati per la prevenzione o il trattamento del mal di montagna e alcuni farmaci abitualmente utilizzati per le patologie neurologiche.