

**Safety And Accuracy of Kidney
Transplant Biopsies. *AJR*,
160(2):325-26, 2/93**

The majority of needle biopsies of kidney transplants are free from complications; however, those biopsies that encounter complications are serious. In 1987 a computerized database was initiated for all sonographically guided biopsies of kidney transplants.

Mary Mahoney, *et al.* compared the safety of the primary methods for kidney biopsy, a 14-gauge Tru-Cut needle without imaging guidance versus an 18-gauge Biopsy gun with sonographic guidance. The results showed fewer major complications occurred when the Biopsy gun technique was used.

**Sleep Deprivation Therapy
In Major Depression.
Biol Psychiatry, 33(1):54-7.**

Sleep deprivation has been regarded as a beneficial treatment for patients with major depression; however, most patients relapse into depression after the next night of sleep.

Jochen Vollmann and Mathias Berger of the University of Freiburg, Germany investigated 17 patients with major depression by attempting to prevent rapid relapse into depression after successful total sleep deprivation (TSD).

Sixty percent of the patients showed improvement by TSD, which conforms to previous studies. The results of the study were impeded by the fact that eight of the eleven patients were on antidepressants.

**Computer Simulation Of Linkage
And Heterogeneity. *J Med
Genetics*, 29(12): 867-74.**

During the past decade, linkage analysis has been successfully applied to localize the genes responsible for many different inherited diseases. For tuberous sclerosis, a neurocutaneous disease, linkage studies have yielded conflicting results.

Recent research studies on tuberous sclerosis reported linkage data pertaining to chromosomes 9, 11, and 12 for a large group of families. A research team from The Netherlands and Wales conducted computer simulation studies in which they determined the probability of detecting linkage and linkage heterogeneity in this set of families.

**MRI Reduces Number Of Small
Animals In Experimentation.
Lab. Animals, 26(3):222-27.**

Although the rat is the most frequently used laboratory animals in biomedical research, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) studies of rats are rare. The size of the animal in combination with low signal-to-noise reduces the research potential of clinical imaging systems for small animal experiments.

However, the use of MRI with high resolution coils for imaging small laboratory animals has shown promise in non-invasive studies, especially biomaterials research and tumor studies.

This technique does not require any special immobilization arrangements or expensive modifications of hardware or software. According to the Dutch

research team, the field of MRI is expanding so rapidly that it is hard to keep up with all new developments.

**Epidemiologic Studies Redefine
The Risks Of Ovarian Cancer,
Am J Epidemiology, 136(10):
1175+ , Nov 15, 1992.**

Alice Whittemore of Stanford University led a team of researchers from 14 medical institutions, who reviewed ovarian cancer data from 12 previous studies.

The research team statistical review using meta-analysis uncovered several new findings. Some of the findings included no increased risk linked to infertility *per se*; a woman's age at menopause did not affect her cancer risk; oral-contraceptive use offered less protection in younger women.

**Brain-Data. *Science*,
258(5090):1872-3, 12/18/93.**

Researchers have been puzzled as to the function of the brain's cingulate gyrus. Neuroscientist Steven Petersen of Washington University recently attended a workshop on databases. Petersen used the database, BrainMap, to investigate the cingulate gyrus.

BrainMap, developed by Peter Fox of the University of Texas, contains data from 30 published journal articles representing several hundred experiments involving positron emission tomography (PET) data. Databases such as BrainMap will enhance future research efforts by allowing the integration of knowledge from many disciplines.

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