

S-100b protein and chronic subdural hematoma

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A commentary on

[Case report: extreme levels of serum S-100B in a patient with chronic subdural hematoma](#)

by Persson M. E., Thelin E. P., and Bellander B. M. (2012) *Front. Neurol.* 3: 170. doi: 10.3389/fneur.2012.00170

We are surprised by the conclusions of a recent paper by [Persson et al. \(2012\)](#), “Case report: extreme levels of serum S-100B in a patient with chronic subdural hematoma,” which suggest that S-100B protein is an important marker for chronic subdural hematoma (CSDH). In our opinion, and that of other authors, S-100B is a significant marker of multiple neurological pathologies.

Chronic subdural hematoma is a relatively common complication, especially among the elderly, where the incidence is estimated as 7.4/100,000. Two circumstances account for its high incidence among the elderly; the extensive brain atrophy often found in the elderly or alcoholics, and long-term use anticoagulant ([Gelabert et al., 2001](#)). CSDH in patients less than 50 years old is rare, and when it does occur it usually points to a predisposing factor, as in this case, where a brain metastasis led to the formation of a hematoma ([Gelabert-González et al., 2012](#)).

Moreover, while the radiological image of the patient in their study shows a hematoma, it is of small size and therefore leads one to question how this can be responsible for such a midline shift. This suggests that something more must be involved, as was revealed at autopsy where a metastasis was identified.

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In a recent paper, [Kruijff and Hoekstra \(2012\)](#) state that the protein S-100B is probably the best biomarker for melanoma, having potential to identify high-risk stage III melanoma patients who may benefit from adjuvant systematic treatment. Since an effective (adjuvant) therapy for loco-regional metastatic and disseminated melanoma has only been recently introduced, the diagnostic of S-100B, they argue, is set to increase in the near future.

It therefore appears inappropriate to consider differential levels of S-100B as indicative of the evolution of CSH, as suggested by the paper's title, since they can be more indicative of a melanoma and its metastasis.

References

Gelabert, M., López, E., and Fernández, J. M. (2001). Chronic subdural hematoma treated by burr holes and closed drainage system: a review of 630 cases. *Med. Principles Pract.* 10, 41-47.

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