Introduction

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It is now commonly accepted that herpes simplex virus is perhaps the commonest cause of sporadic encephalitis occurring in temperate climates. The advent of what is perhaps effective virus chemotherapy has brought a new magnitude to the problem, but it is clear that the exact role of the new drugs has not been demonstrated.

The disease is relatively infrequent and there is no doubt that a collaborative effort will be necessary if the outstanding problems are to be solved. The organizers hope that this symposium on acute

necrotizing encephalitis will have provided the stimulus for such a study.

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