

Brainstem Involvement: An uncommon Presentation of Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy in HIV Patient

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Abstract: *Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) is a demyelinating disease of the central nervous system characterized by widespread lesions due to infection of oligodendrocytes by JC virus.⁽¹⁾ Brain stem involvement is an uncommon presentation of Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy in HIV Patient.*

Keywords: Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, Acquired immune deficiency syndrome, Brainstem

1. Introduction

Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) is a fulminating opportunistic infection of the brain that occurs in approximately 4% of AIDS patients. It typically has caused death within 2½ to 4 months of diagnosis.⁽²⁾ Despite the use of different medical therapies, this infection has generally remained refractory to treatment. Only a small percentage of patients with a more benign clinical course have reportedly had a prolonged survival.⁽³⁾

2. Case Report

A 35 year's old female presented with 3month h/o progressive unsteadiness during walking in form of swaying

towards either side and progressive slurring of speech, irrelevant talking & abnormal behavior. On examination vital was normal, she was conscious, oriented. Speech was slurred, scanning type, with normal cranial nerves. On motor examination power was 5/5 in all four limbs with normal DTR, and her bilateral plantar was flexor. Signs of incoordination was present.

Magnetic resonance imaging brain showed multiple periventricular, subcortical, brainstem hyperintensities. All hematological, biochemical investigations & CSF examination was within normal limits except reactive for HIV.



3. Discussion

A 35 years old female presented with 3 month h/o progressive limb & gait ataxia, progressive dysarthria with behavioral changes. Patient was reactive for HIV. MRI brain

was s/o multiple periventricular, subcortical, brain stem hyperintensities. So patient was kept as Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy.

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4. Conclusion

Brain stem involvement is an uncommon presentation of Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy in HIV Patient.

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