

Cervical Spinal Cord Neurocysticercosis: Case Report

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Female patient, 53 years old, from Bahia, with complaint of loss of strength in the left leg for 1 month. Patient reported monoparesis in the lower left limb, which for 15 days also evolved to the right lower limb and one week to the right upper limb. Concomitantly, he presented right occipital headache of medium intensity. Magnetic resonance imaging reveals three intradural, extramedullary, circular, well delimited lesions in the cervical segment of the spinal cord with peripheral uptake by contrast. Patient was submitted to treatment with albendazole and dexamethasone receiving discharge with improvement of headache and maintaining neurological status. Spinal cord involvement occurs in 1% of cases and is usually associated with subarachnoid neurocysticercosis, which causes an inflammatory process with root demyelination, generating root pain and neurological deficits that will depend on the location of the lesion. In the case reported, we present a patient with a history of “around the clock” paresis, a description that refers to the compression at the foramen magnum and upper cervical spine. After the nuclear resonance, a very suggestive cystic lesion is identified, which together with the clinical criteria allowed the diagnosis. Although the best way to treat the spinal cord presentation of neurocysticercosis is still uncertain, albendazole combined with dexamethasone seems to be the best option. Dexamethasone works by decreasing the local inflammatory reaction and may increase blood levels of albendazole. Although only 60% to 75% of patients in the surgical group had satisfactory results, almost all clinically treated patients report a good medical outcome. Then, with the advent of better neuroimaging techniques and characterization of neurocysticercosis, most patients are diagnosed early and treated medically, thus avoiding the need for surgery in many patients. Neurocysticercosis is a parasitic infection in the central nervous system caused by the larval stage (cysticercus) of pig platelminth *Taenia solium*. It is an endemic disease worldwide with about 50 million cases, causing about 50,000 annual

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