An adolescent girl with hypertension and neuropsychiatric symptoms: Questions

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Case presentation

An 11-year-old girl was admitted to our hospital with complaints of weakness, weight loss (10 kg in the last month), excessive sweating, and abdominal and joint pains. Her complaints started 6 weeks prior to admittance when she began to suffer from intermittent fever and back and abdominal pain. Four weeks before admission to our center, she presented to a local hospital with dysuria, itching, and a burning sensation in the genital region; she was diagnosed with a urinary tract infection (UTI) and treated with antibiotics. During this period of time, her abdominal pain and myalgia persisted. On further evaluation, Rose Bengal, *Brucella*, and *Salmonella* agglutination tests yielded nega-

tive results, and abdominal ultrasonography (USG) results were normal. During hospitalization, behavioral changes were noted including insomnia, irritability, delirium, hallucinations, and tremors, and she was referred to our hospital's psychiatry department. Before an extensive psychiatric evaluation, she underwent clinical testing at our center in order to rule out organic pathologies. Her past and family histories were unremarkable.

On initial physical examination, she was found to be alert, agitated, but oriented; the results of the neurological examination were normal. Her height was at the 50th percentile, weight was at the 3rd percentile, heart rate was 120/min, and her blood pressure was 145/100 mmHg. Her hands were red, sweaty, and itchy, as were the soles of her feet. Photophobia was present. The rest of the examination was unremarkable. Laboratory test results were as follows: hemoglobin 13.6 gm/dl, white blood cell count (WBC) 12,900/mm³, platelets (Plt) 357,000/mm³, C-reactive protein (CRP) <1 mg/l, erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) 16 mm/h, total bilirubin 0.42 mg/dl, direct bilirubin 0.05 mg/dl, serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase (SGOT) 22 U/l, serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase (SGPT) 26 U/l, total protein 7 g/dl, albumin 3.7 g/dl, blood urea nitrogen (BUN) 6 mg/dl, creatinine 0.44 mg/dl, sodium 137 mEq/l, and potassium 4.2 mEq/l. Blood gas and urinalysis were within the normal ranges. The patient was hospitalized for further evaluation of her hypertension.

The answers to these questions can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00467-012-2233-6>.

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Questions

1. What additional tests would you perform?
2. What could be the reason for the hypertension?