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Current Abstracts

e1 Disseminated Infection with *Cryptococcus Neoformans* var *Neoformans* in an 8 Years Immunocompetent Girl

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Abstract. Disseminated cryptococcosis is a rare and often fatal disease in children. The majority of cases usually occur in individuals with defective cell-mediated immunity, most commonly due to HIV infection. The authors here in report an 8-year-old girl from Nepal who presented with fever, cough, headache, lymphadenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly and cutaneous lesions. Lymph node biopsy revealed multiple granulomas composed of histiocytes and epithelioid cells along with numerous yeast forms of cryptococcus. Cultures of CSF, sputum and urine yielded cryptococcus neoformans. Surprisingly, the immune function in terms of T-cell number, CD₄ : CD₈ ratio, serum immunoglobulins and HIV serology was normal. After the diagnosis of disseminated cryptococcosis was established, the patient was treated with 5-fluorocytosine (100 mg/kg/day) for initial two weeks and amphotericin B (1 mg/kg/day) for 13 weeks. Patient responded well to the treatment with disappearance of presenting symptoms, cutaneous lesions, and lymphadenopathy, though she still had hepatosplenomegaly, which also decreased. Unfortunately, she developed loss of vision in 10th week of therapy. The patient was discharged on oral fluconazole (6 mg/kg/day) and no recurrence was found during the follow-up period of more than 9 months. This is the first case of disseminated cryptococcosis with no detectable immune deficit, from India. [Indian J Pediatr 2005; 72(1) : e1-e3] E-mail: pk_paed@sify.com

e4 The Presenting Feature of SLE

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Abstract. Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a multisystem immunologic disease. Renal and neurological manifestations are frequently seen in childhood SLE. Out of the neurological features movement disorders are uncommon. A case of SLE is presented here with unusual neurological manifestation i.e. chorea associated with microphonia. [Indian J Pediatr 2005; 72 (1) : e4-e5]

e6 Shaken Baby Syndrome Masquerading as Apparent Life Threatening Event

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Abstract. A variety of diseases and disorders can present as an acute life-threatening event among which shaken baby syndrome has been recently recognized. A high index of suspicion along with an ophthalmologic evaluation and cranial imaging helps to identify this form of child abuse, which needs multidisciplinary management. [Indian J Pediatr 2005; 72 (1) : e6-e8] E-mail: medinst@pgi.chd.nic.in