Heterotopic Ossification in a Patient with Tuberculous Meningoencephalitis

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Heterotopic ossification (HO) is the deposition of mature lamellar bone in soft tissue (1). Herein, we present the case of HO due to tuberculous meningitis (TBM) with specific concern on the role of alkaline phosphatase (ALP) in the diagnosis.

A 27-year-old man was diagnosed with TBM. During the follow-up antituberculosis therapy had to be stopped twice for a one-week period due to hepatotoxicity, which was obvious at the third month of therapy; therefore routine liver function tests were measured several times during the follow-up (Picture 1). On the 55th day of admission, the patient’s right hip motions were found to be limited. The radiographic evaluation showed HO. Triple-phase bone scan showed that HO was immature (Picture 2).

The reason to report this patient is two fold. First, we would like to caution physicians that in comatose patients the clinical scenario can easily be overlooked. Second, drawing attention to the increased prevalence of tuberculosis

Picture 1. Alkaline phosphatase and alanine aminotransferase measurements of the patient during the follow-up.

Picture 2. Triple-phase bone scan showing immature heterotopic ossification in the right hip joint.

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all around the world also due to various predisposing condi-
tions, it would be noteworthy for TBM to be included in the
list of disorders associated with HO in addition to the re-
ported cases of viral encephalitis.

Reference