MRI 35 Years after Carbon Monoxide Intoxication

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Key words: carbon monoxide intoxication, MRI


A 28-year-old man suffered from severe carbon monoxide (CO) intoxication. After being in a semi-coma, he was able to talk on day 30 and to walk four months later. However, apathy, disinhibition and executive dysfunction persisted until he died of colon cancer at the age of 73. MRI was performed twice: 35 years (Picture) and 29 years after CO intoxication. The MRI images showed diffuse cerebral atrophy and white-matter hyperintensity of the parietal and occipital lobes on T2-weighted images that did not show any changes between the two series of MRI. The sequelae and MRI abnormalities of CO intoxication persist for long periods. It has been shown that neurological and MRI findings of CO intoxication vary by case (1). However, to our knowledge, there are no reports of long-term follow-up MRI being performed, except in a case evaluated 29 years after CO intoxication (2). Further accumulation of such cases is therefore required to understand the long-term prognosis of CO intoxication.

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Received for publication July 30, 2012; Accepted for publication August 19, 2012

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The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

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