Neurosyphilis Presenting as Frontal and Mesial Temporal Encephalitis

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A 46-year-old woman with a 15-month history of progressive dementia and personality changes was admitted to our hospital due to generalized seizures and a prolonged disturbance of consciousness. She tested positive for syphilis with a rapid plasma reagent. Fluorescent treponemal antibody absorption, measured for confirmation, was also positive. A human immunodeficiency virus test was negative. Axial fluid-attenuated inversion recovery magnetic resonance imaging...
imaging (MRI) revealed bilateral frontal and right insular cortical lesions (Picture A) in addition to a mesial temporal lesion (Picture B) (1, 2). The patient received a 14-day course of penicillin G (18 million units/day) with a gradual improvement in consciousness. The seizures were successfully controlled with 800 mg/day of sodium valproate. MRI showed frontal and mesial temporal atrophy three months after treatment (Picture C and D).

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

References


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