CAT-SCRATCH DISEASE: STILL A CHALLENGE

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INTRODUCTION

Cat-scratch disease (CSD)-neuroretinitis (CSDN) is an unusual pathology in immunocompetent individuals (1-2% of CSD). It typically presents with sudden vision loss following a febrile illness.

CASE REPORT



10 years old Healthy Daily contact with kittens

48 hours

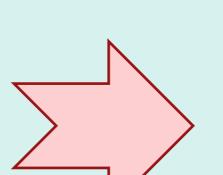
Week

Fever Headache Vomits Abdominal pain Myodesopsias right eye Right eye disc swelling

Normal visual acuity

Bilateral cervical nodes

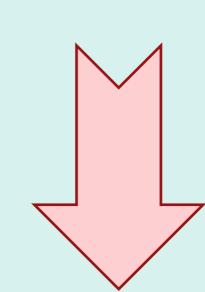
Fever



White cell count 7.5x10⁹/L C-Reactive protein 139 mg/L Erythrocyte sedimentation rate 44 mm/h

Lumbar puncture Intracranial hypertension Raised opening pressure (28.5 mmH₂O) Normal cytochemical (0.8/uL cells, proteins 10.6)

Brain and orbit MRI with angiogram: normal



HIV, herpesviruses, Toxoplasma gondii, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Borrelia burgdorferi, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, syphilis and autoimmune diseases were EXCLUDED

Acetazolamide

Sudden unilateral diminished visual acuity (2/10) Macular serous detachment, vasculitis

months 3

Cat-scratch disease neuroretinitis

Doxycycline (8 weeeks) Rifampicin (8 weeks) Methylprednisolone (3 days)

Asymptomatic with 10/10 right visual acuity

✓ Lumbar puncture

Normal opening pressure (19 mmH₂O) Pleocytosis (56/uL)

Bartonella spp POSITIVE serology with fourfold decrease in IFA titers:

1st serum sample IgM 32; IgG 4096 2nd serum sample (4 weeks later) IgM <32; IgG 512

CSF sample IgG 32

Negative DNA amplification in blood and CSF

DISCUSSION

The absence of a macular star does not exclude and should not delay the diagnosis of CSDN. Serology remains the most common test to support the diagnosis. The role of antibiotics with or without steroids is not consensual. Still, patients usually have a favorable visual outcome. **EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF PAEDIATRIC**

References: SULENE L. "Clinical characteristics in 53 patients with cat scratch optic neuropathy" Ophthalmology 2012; 119:183-187; TSUJINO, K. "Clinical implication of prolonged fever in children with cat scratch disease" J Infect Chemother 2004; 10:227-233 SUHLER, EB "Prevalence of serologic evidence of cat scratch disease in patients with neuroretinitis" Ophthalmology 2000; 107:871; BHATTI, MT; "Macular star in neuroretinitis" Arch Neurol 2001; 58:1008

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