

Case of the month

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Case history

Eighty years old male with RA. Treated with cortison and Methotrexate. Falls ill with fever, confusion and tremor during late summer.

Analyses:

CSF: pleocytosis (mono 51, poly 1)

CT: contrast enhancement in the meninges

EEG: general abnormality, most on right side

MRI: unspecific white matter changes

PCR: HSV 1, HSV 2, VZV, CMV and enterovirus
negative

TBE: IgG titer 110U/ml, IgM negative (consistent with
previous vaccination)

Clinical diagnosis: Encephalitis

Treatment: Treated with acyclovir initially but this was discontinued since PCR for HSV1 was negative. Low dose cortison iv.

Clinical course

Rapid progression of symptoms. Expires less than two weeks after referral to the hospital

Macro: The brain weighed 1400 gram. No focal lesions.

Micro: Perivascular infiltrates and diffuse infiltration of mononuclear cells especially in the basal ganglia, thalamus, brainstem and cerebellum.









