

Cryptococcal Meningitis with Multiple Cranial Nerve Palsies: A Review of Literature

Sir,

Cryptococcal meningitis (CM) is a common opportunistic infection in patients with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. If untreated, it is invariably fatal with 30-82% mortality.^[1] Cranial nerve palsies are seen in about 25% of patients and usually involves a single cranial nerve, most commonly the abducens nerve. Involvement of multiple cranial nerves is very unusual. We report a 20-year-old lady who presented with multiple cranial nerve palsies due to CM as the first presentation of HIV infection. She had headache since 2 months and altered behavior since 2 days. Cranial nerves involved were the second, sixth, and seventh in the form of decreased visual acuity bilaterally, bilateral lateral rectus palsy, and left upper motor neuron facial palsy. Cerebrospinal fluid fungal culture grew colonies of *Cryptococcus neoformans*. Perineuritic adhesive arachnoiditis due to CM has been shown as the cause for cranial nerve palsies in autopsy studies.^[2] A review of literature is shown in Table 1.

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Table 1: Reported cranial nerve involvement in CM (1985-2013)

Author(s)	Age/sex	HIV status	Cranial nerves	Outcome
Sadunet <i>al.</i> ^[3]	34/F	Positive	Bilateral 4 th	N/A
Mohanet <i>al.</i> ^[4]	Male	Positive	Bilateral 2 nd , 3 rd , 6 th , 7 th , and 8 th	Alive
Cohenet <i>al.</i> ^[5]	N/A	Positive	Bilateral 2 nd	N/A
Kwoket <i>al.</i> ^[6]	Male	Negative	Unilateral 6 th	Alive
Lipson <i>et al.</i> ^[2]	N/A	N/A	Bilateral 2 nd	N/A
Tjia <i>et al.</i> ^[7]	21/F	N/A	Bilateral 6 th	Dead
Tjia <i>et al.</i> ^[7]	11/F	N/A	Bilateral 6 th	Alive
Tjia <i>et al.</i> ^[7]	13/F	N/A	Unilateral 7 th	Alive
Tjia <i>et al.</i> ^[7]	24/F	N/A	Bilateral 6 th	Alive
Tjia <i>et al.</i> ^[7]	24/M	N/A	Bilateral 6 th	Alive
Tjia <i>et al.</i> ^[7]	27/M	N/A	Bilateral 2 nd and 3 rd	Dead
Tjia <i>et al.</i> ^[7]	67/F	N/A	Bilateral 6 th	Alive
Tjia <i>et al.</i> ^[7]	32/M	N/A	Bilateral 6 th	Alive
Tjia <i>et al.</i> ^[7]	32/F	N/A	Bilateral 6 th	Alive
Mahadevan <i>et al.</i> ^[8]	20/M	Negative	Unilateral 3 rd and 12 th and bilateral 6 th , 7 th , 9 th , and 10 th	Dead
Leite <i>et al.</i> ^[9]	43/M	Positive	Unilateral 7 th	Alive
Prada <i>et al.</i> ^[10]	23/M	Positive	Bilateral 2 nd and 8 th	Dead

N/A: Not available; CM: Cryptococcal meningitis; HIV: Human immunodeficiency virus; M: Male; F: Female

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