

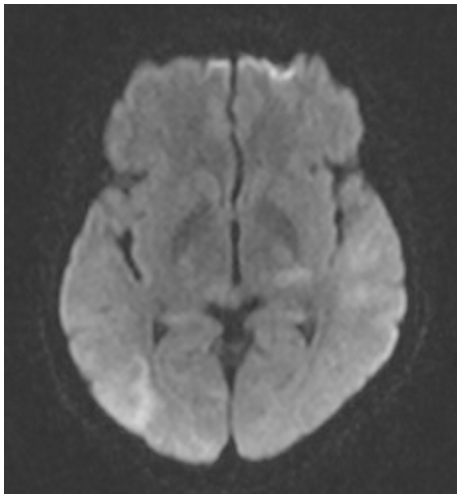
Immune Reconstitution Syndrome in a Patient with AIDS

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Picture.

A 43-year-old woman with AIDS presented with hearing loss, dysarthria and ataxic gait with a history of 3 days. The patient had been re-started on antiretroviral therapy three weeks prior. Brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) was performed (Picture). A JC virus polymerase chain reaction of the cerebrospinal fluid subsequently returned positive findings. JC virus is the etiologic agent of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML), a demyelinating disease

of the central nervous system. PML generally affects severely immunocompromised individuals and is considered an AIDS-defining illness. In contrast to classic PML, where the disease onset is subacute, the onset of PML-inflammatory immune reconstitution syndrome (PML-IRIS) tends to be more acute after the immune response is restored with highly active antiretroviral therapy (1). Notably, PML may be diagnosed at the time of IRIS, as described in our case. On brain MRI, PML-IRIS lesions display contrast enhancement and a possible mass effect. The prompt initiation of steroids may be beneficial for such cases (2).

The author states that he has no Conflict of Interest (COI).

References

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