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CLINICAL VIDEO

Gaze-evoked nystagmus in Wernicke encephalopathy

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Abstract

Wernicke encephalopathy is caused by vitamin B1 deficiency. It presents as a triad consisting of altered mental status, oculomotor dysfunction, and gait ataxia. Early vitamin B1 administration alleviates symptoms. We present a video of gaze-evoked nystagmus in an elderly patient with Wernicke encephalopathy.

KEYWORDS

nystagmus, vitamin B1, Wernicke encephalopathy

An 86-year-old woman with dementia presented with a 6-week history of poor appetite. Ten days ago, she was bedridden. On admission, she exhibited bilateral horizontal gaze-evoked nystagmus (Video S1). Wernicke encephalopathy was suspected, and vitamin B1 was administered intravenously. Her nystagmus improved the following day (Video S2) and disappeared two weeks later (Video S3). Her serum vitamin B1 level was 1.0 μg/dl. The Wernicke encephalopathy triad includes mental status alteration, oculomotor dysfunction, and gait ataxia.[1] In frail elderly patients with dementia, mental and ambulation states are difficult to evaluate and nystagmus is the only useful physical finding in the diagnosis.[2]

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

SS collected the data and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. HN coordinated the project and edited the manuscript. Both authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

Our IRB did not require further approval.

CONSENT

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analyzed during the current study.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found in the online version of the article at the publisher's website.

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