Internal Medicine
The Japanese Society of Internal Medicine
doi: 10.2169/internalmedicine.3660-19
Intern Med 59: 1339-1340, 2020
http://internmed.jp

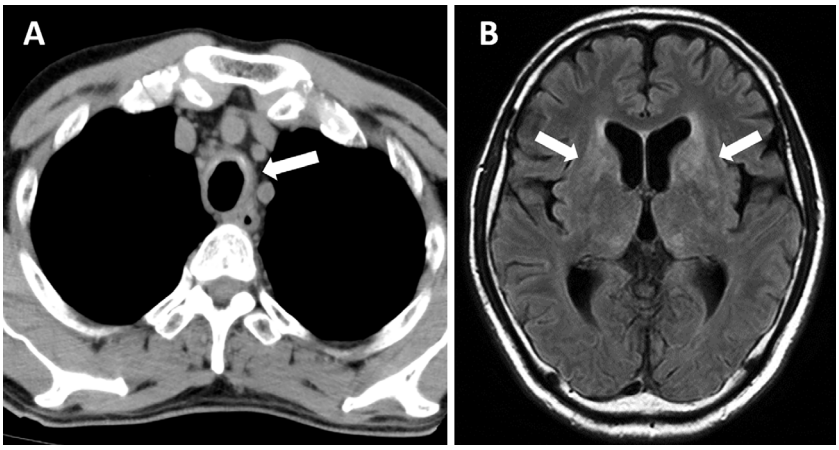
【 PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE 】

The Spinal Cord Uptake of Fluorodeoxyglucose in a Patient with Relapsing Polychondritis

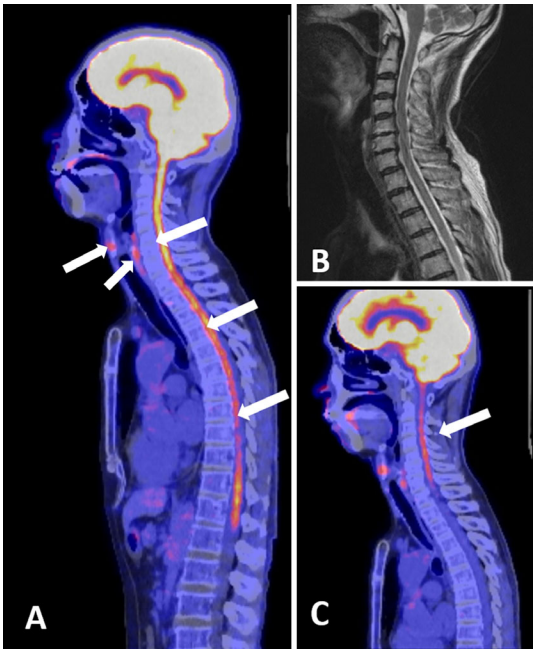
Ryoko Anada, Tomohiro Hayashi, Mamoru Yamamoto and Yuji Nakatsuji

Key words: relapsing polychondritis, PET, spinal cord, meningoencephalitis

(Intern Med 59: 1339-1340, 2020)
(DOI: 10.2169/internalmedicine.3660-19)



Picture 1.



Picture 2.

A 65-year-old man presented with a fever, chest pain, drowsiness, and urinary retention. A thickened tracheal wall was revealed by chest computed tomography, and high-intensity signals around the basal ganglia were observed on brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) (Picture 1, arrows). Antibodies against type II collagen tested positive later. Fluorodeoxyglucose-positron emission tomography (FDG-PET) revealed a strong FDG uptake in the whole spinal cord in addition to the tracheal wall and thyroid cartilage, although MRI did not show any abnormalities (Picture 2A, B, arrows). The diagnosis of meningoencephalitis accompanied by relapsing polychondritis (RP) was made. The patient received intravenous methylprednisolone followed by oral prednisolone. Thereafter, all of his symptoms except urinary dysfunction ameliorated. This was accompanied by a reduced FDG uptake (Picture 2C, arrow). Neurological involvement occurs in only 3% of patients with RP (1, 2). No previous studies have described such an abnormal FDG uptake in the spinal cord in a case of RP.

Department of Neurology, Toyama University Hospital, Japan
Received: July 26, 2019; Accepted: December 19, 2019; Advance Publication by J-STAGE: February 12, 2020
Correspondence to Dr. Yuji Nakatsuji, nakatsuj@med.u-toyama.ac.jp

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

References

1. Puéchal X, Trrier B, Mouthon L, et al. Relapsing polychondritis. Joint Bone Spine **81**: 118-124, 2014.

2. Sampaio L, Silva L, Mariz E, et al. Central nervous system involvement in relapsing polychondritis. Joint Bone Spine **77**: 619-620, 2010.