FOCAL SEIZURES DUE TO CHRONIC LOCALIZED ENCEPHALITIS

Theodore Rasmussen, MD; Jerzy Olszewski, MD; and Donald Lloyd-Smith, MD

Neurology 1958;8:435-445

Occasional specimens of scarred, atrophic brain removed for the relief of focal cerebral seizures at the Montreal Neurological Institute have shown striking perivascular collections of round cells, particularly in less severely damaged areas of these specimens. In the past this perivascular cuffing has been attributed to the effect on the brain of recurring seizures, with recognition, however, that this was a rather unsatisfactory explanation since the great majority of surgical specimens removed from patients with equally frequent focal seizures do not show this change. Histologic studies of surgical specimens from three children recently operated upon for intractable focal seizures suggest that this microscopic picture may indicate the presence of an unsuspected, more or less localized, chronic encephalitis that has smoldered along over a period of years. The clinical and histologic data on these three children will be reported in some detail.

Free access to this article at http://www.neurology.org/content/8/6/435

Comment from Gregory D. Cascino, MD, FAAN, Associate Editor: This is a classic manuscript introducing the entity now known as “Rasmussen encephalitis.”
Focal seizures due to chronic localized encephalitis
Theodore Rasmussen, Jerzy Olszewski and Donald Lloyd-Smith
Neurology 2011;76;1580
DOI 10.1212/01.wnl.0000398013.26242.03

This information is current as of May 2, 2011

Updated Information & Services
including high resolution figures, can be found at:
http://n.neurology.org/content/76/18/1580.citation.full

Permissions & Licensing
Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:
http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions

Reprints
Information about ordering reprints can be found online:
http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise