Teaching NeuroImages: Acute necrotizing encephalopathy during novel influenza A (H1N1) virus infection

A. Spalice, MD, PhD
F. Del Balzo, MD
F. Nicita, MD
L. Papetti, MD
F. Ursitti, MD
G. Salvatori, MD
A.M. Zicari, MD
E. Properzi, MD
M. Duse, MD

Since the outbreak of novel influenza A (H1N1) in 2009, various neurologic complications have been cited.1 A 2-month-old girl died of a rapidly progressive encephalopathy after influenza infection. MRI, performed after 12 hours from the onset of symptoms, showed bilateral and symmetric lesions including the thalamus, the cortical–subcortical regions of the occipital and parietal lobes, and brainstem tegmentum (figure). The pathology of necrosis and vasculopathy were in keeping with acute necrotizing encephalopathy, first described in Japan and carrying high mortality and morbidity.2 A vasculopathy with breakdown of the blood–brain barrier was incriminated but the pathogenesis remained obscure.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
Dr. Spalice: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, acquisition of data. Dr. del Balzo: study concept or design, acquisition of data. Dr. Nicita: study concept or design, acquisition of data. Dr. Papetti: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, analysis or interpretation of data, acquisition of data. Dr. Ursitti: study concept or design, study supervision. Dr. Salvatori: study concept or design, acquisition of data. Dr. Zicari: study concept or design, acquisition of data. Dr. Properzi: drafting/revising the manuscript, acquisition of data. Dr. Duse: study concept or design, acquisition of data.

REFERENCES

Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. Alberto Spalice, Division of Child Neurology, Department of Pediatrics, University “La Sapienza,” Rome, Viale Regina Elena 324, 00161 Rome, Italy childneurology.sapienzaroma@live.it

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Section Editor
Mitchell S.V. Elkind, MD, MS

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