Unusual MRI findings in a case of Marchiafava Bignami disease

Twenty-four hours after surgery for acute aortic dissection, a 51-year-old man with alcoholism developed agitation, decreased consciousness, mutism, and upbeat nystagmus on upward gaze. He also showed left-sided weakness with pyramidal signs and spastic limb ataxia. After 4 weeks treatment with thiamine supplementation, his neurologic and general condition improved. MRI findings are shown in the figure.

Marchiafava Bignami disease is associated with chronic alcoholism and nutritional deficiency. Although etiopathogenesis is unknown, alcohol toxicity and osmotic disorders are in relation with typical corpus callosum demyelination. Other CNS structures such as white matter tracts and middle cerebellar peduncles may be involved, but far less frequently.

S. Bellido, MD, I. Navas, MD, M.A. Aranda, MD, R. Ginestal, MD, B. Venegas, MD, Madrid, Spain

Author contributions: Dr. Bellido: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, analysis or interpretation of data. Dr. Navas: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, analysis or interpretation of data. Dr. Aranda: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, analysis or interpretation of data. Dr. Ginestal: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, analysis or interpretation of data. Dr. Venegas: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, analysis or interpretation of data.

The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

Correspondence & reprint requests to Dr. Bellido: sara.bellido@gmail.com

Unusual MRI findings in a case of Marchiafava Bignami disease
S. Bellido, I. Navas, M.A. Aranda, et al.
Neurology 2012;78;1537
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e3182553ced

This information is current as of May 7, 2012

Updated Information & Services
including high resolution figures, can be found at:
http://n.neurology.org/content/78/19/1537.full

References
This article cites 2 articles, 1 of which you can access for free at:
http://n.neurology.org/content/78/19/1537.full#ref-list-1

Subspecialty Collections
This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s):
Alcohol
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/alcohol
Coma
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/coma
Metabolic disease (inherited)
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/metabolic_disease_inherited
MRI
http://n.neurology.org/cgi/collection/mri

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