Teaching NeuroImages: Balamuthia mandrillaris amebic encephalitis
Clinical–radiologic–pathologic correlation

A 32-year-old immunocompetent man presented with new-onset generalized tonic-clonic seizures. On examination, he had mild right hand weakness, with right-sided Hoffman sign, ankle clonus, and Babinski reflex present. MRI of the brain demonstrated vasogenic edema surrounding a ring-enhancing lesion in the left parietal lobe (figure, A). Repeat brain MRIs showed rapid progression of the lesion, with new lesions appearing in the contralateral hemisphere (figure, B and C). Pathology showed necrotizing meningoenцеphalitis with organisms consistent with ameba (figure, D). Indirect immunofluorescence and PCR was positive for Balamuthia mandrillaris. About 200 cases of Balamuthia infection have been reported worldwide, and it has a very high mortality rate of 95%.1

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
Shivam Om Mittal: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, analysis or interpretation of data, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval. Omar Alsinaidi: drafting/revising the manuscript, study concept or design, analysis or interpretation of data, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval, contribution of vital reagents/tools/patients, acquisition of data.

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