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Teaching NeuroImages: Palindromic Rheumatoid Meningitis: A Tale of Two Hemispheres

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Dr Ahmed Itrat reports no disclosures

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Case Summary:

A 61-year-old-man presented with right-sided somatosensory seizures and evidence of left-sided pachy-meningeal enhancement on a cerebral MRI(Fig-1A-C). Review of prior images demonstrated similar inflammatory changes in the contralateral hemisphere on MRI at time of a prior seizure twelve-years-ago(Fig-1D-E). Serological and cerebrospinal-fluid analysis, and a brain PET-scan demonstrated no abnormality. Brain biopsy revealed chronic lymphohistiocytic meningitis. His episodic arthropathy prompted rheumatological workup which revealed elevated Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide and Rheumatoid Factor, suggestive of palindromic rheumatism, with corresponding imaging findings reminiscent of those described with rheumatoid meningitis.^{1,2} He improved after a brief course of steroids with resolution of meningeal enhancement(Fig-1F).

Appendix 1: Authors

Name	Location	Contribution
Ahmed Itrat, MD	Cleveland Clinic Akron General, Akron, Ohio, USA	Study concept or design and revising manuscript for content
Asma Akbar Ladak	Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan	Drafting/revising the manuscript for content, including medical writing for content
Rula A Hajj-Ali, MD	Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio, USA	Study concept or design and revising manuscript for content

Teaching Slides - <http://links.lww.com/WNL/B450>

References:

1. Servioli MJ, Chugh C, Lee JM, Biller J. Rheumatoid meningitis. *Front Neurol*. 2011 Dec 26;2:84. doi: 10.3389/fneur.2011.00084.
2. Bourgeois P, Rivest J, Bocti C. Rheumatoid meningitis presenting with stroke-like episodes. *Neurology*. 2014;82(17):1564-1565.

Figure Title: Composite Magnetic Resonance Images (MRI) of brain showing asymmetric inflammatory changes and resolution from different time points

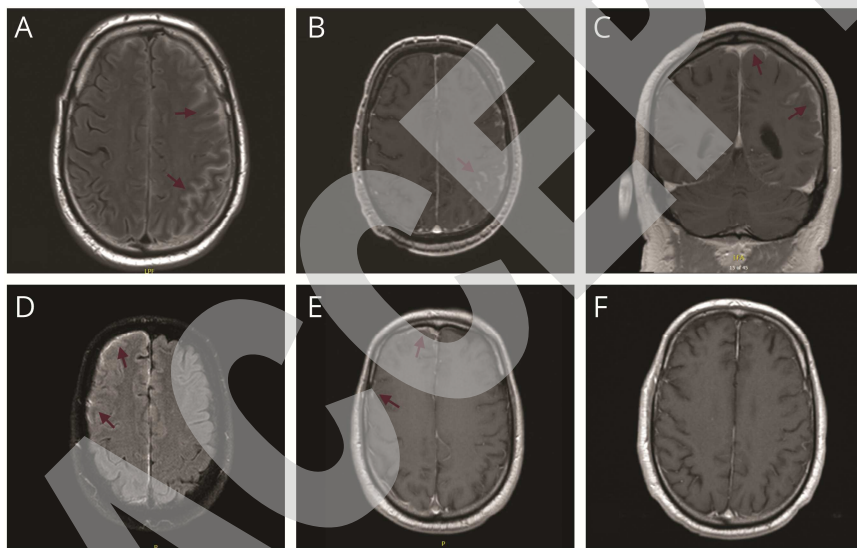


Figure Legend:

A-C, D-E, and F demonstrate MRI sequences from three different time-points respectively. The pattern of cortical hyperintensity and enhancement in the left hemisphere from 2016 (A-C) compares to the predominantly right hemispheric involvement in 2004 (D-E), with inflammation resolving three-months-later (F)

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