Teaching NeuroImage: A Starry Sky in the Brain

Author(s):
Wei Li, Master of Medicine¹; De ren Hou, Doctor of Medicine²; Hong Tan, Master of Medicine¹

Corresponding Author:
Hong Tan, 14726977743@163.com

Affiliation Information for All Authors: 1. Department of Nerve medical center, The First Hospital of Changsha, Changsha, China; 2. Department of Neurology, The Third Xiangya Hospital, Central South University, Changsha, China

Equal Author Contribution:

Contributions:
Wei Li: Drafting/revision of the manuscript for content, including medical writing for content; Major role in the acquisition of data; Study concept or design; Analysis or interpretation of data
De ren Hou: Major role in the acquisition of data; Analysis or interpretation of data
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A 30-year-old HIV-positive man with a history of frequent river bathing presented
with headache and fever. Neurological examinations revealed meningeal irritation. On brain MRI, contrast-enhanced T1WI showed diffuse intracranial nodules with high signal intensity, creating a “starry sky” appearance (Figure A). Serum IgG antibodies against *Schistosoma* species were detected using ELISA. High-throughput sequencing confirmed schistosomiasis in the CSF. These findings and the absence of granulomatous diseases indicated a diagnosis of disseminated cerebral schistosomiasis. The patient was treated with glucocorticoids and praziquantel (60 mg/kg, twice/day for 5 days). One year later, follow-up MRI showed significant lesion absorption (Figure B).

**Figure legends**

**Figure.** (A) A brain MRI contrast-enhanced T1WI shows diffuse intracranial high-signal nodules, with significant enhancement, producing a “starry sky” appearance. The pia meninges are thickened and show linear enhancement (red arrows). (B) A contrast-enhanced T1WI shows the disappearance of the lesions 1 year later.
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