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The Importance of Brain MRI in the diagnosis of Marchiafava-Bignami Disease

Marchiafava-Bignami Disease (MBD) is a neurological disorder that has been found to be associated with chronic alcoholism and malnutrition. We report a 45 year old man, chronic alcoholic that developed discouragement for activities involving daily living, changes in retrograde memory in addition to mutism and gait instability. Brain MRI showed central atrophy of the corpus callosum, hypointensity (necrosis) and ventricular dilation (white matter and subcortical region involvement). Pathological characteristics include isolated demyelination and axonal loss in the central layer of the CC sparing the dorsal and ventral layer. This pattern of necrosis of the middle layer

of the CC is a typical finding in the disease. The clinical diagnosis has considerably changed during recent decades after brain MRI provided the opportunity of a reliable in-vivo diagnosis. With early detection and treatment, the prognosis of MBD may be good.

Biography

Caio Pontes has special interest in neurological complications of alcohol abuse, demyelinating disease and advances in diagnostic tools. He worked as neurological member of the Federal institution (Hospital Federal dos Servidores do Estado – RJ) which is reference in neurological diseases.

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