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## Correspondence

## Isolated Third Cranial Nerve Palsy and COVID-19 Infection in a Child



We read with interest the recent description of a child with transverse myelitis following COVID-19.<sup>1</sup> The literature also reports isolated COVID-19-related cranial nerve palsy.<sup>2,3</sup>

We document a post-COVID unilateral third cranial nerve palsy in a two-year-old child affected by sphingosine phosphate lyase insufficiency syndrome. This syndrome displays a wide spectrum of manifestations including steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome, endocrine involvement, lymphopenia/immunodeficiency, and neurological problems (e.g., developmental delay, neuropathy).<sup>4</sup> Three weeks after resolution of a Sars-Cov2 infection complicated by multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), the patient presented with right third nerve palsy (ophthalmoplegia with exotropia, ptosis, and mydriasis). The child came to our attention about 15 days after onset of these symptoms. No other neurological findings were detected except for pre-existing developmental and language delay, hypotonia, and hypotrophy with normal deep tendon reflexes, consistent with his syndrome. The clinical investigations performed, such as brain magnetic resonance imaging, blood tests, cerebrospinal fluid analysis, microbiology, and autoimmunity studies, including antiganglioside antibodies, revealed only blood-brain barrier damage, expressed by an elevated cerebrospinal fluid/serum quotient of albumin ( $Q_{Alb}$ ), namely, 10450 (normal value < 5000). The patient was treated with oral prednisone for five days, with only eye partial recovery at one month follow-up.

In light of the published data and the clinical characteristics of our patient, it may be reasonably hypothesized that isolated post-COVID cranial neuropathies in children are a rare occurrence and are possibly favored by the underlying comorbidities.

## References

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Valentina Lonardi, MD

*Paediatric Neurology and Neurophysiology Unit, Department of Women's and Children's Health, University Hospital of Padua, Padua, Italy*

*E-mail address: [valentina.lonardi10@gmail.com](mailto:valentina.lonardi10@gmail.com).*

Davide Meneghesso, MD, Giulia Debertolis, MD

*Paediatric Nephrology, Department of Women's and Children's Health, University Hospital of Padua, Padua, Italy*

Jacopo N. Pin, MD

*Paediatric Neurology and Neurophysiology Unit, Department of Women's and Children's Health, University Hospital of Padua, Padua, Italy*

Margherita Nosadini, MD, PhD, Stefano Sartori, MD, PhD

*Paediatric Neurology and Neurophysiology Unit, Department of Women's and Children's Health, University Hospital of Padua, Padua, Italy*

*Neuroimmunology Group, Paediatric Research Institute Città della Speranza, Padua, Italy*

*Department of Neurosciences (DNS), University of Padua, Padua, Italy*

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