

[PICTURES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE]

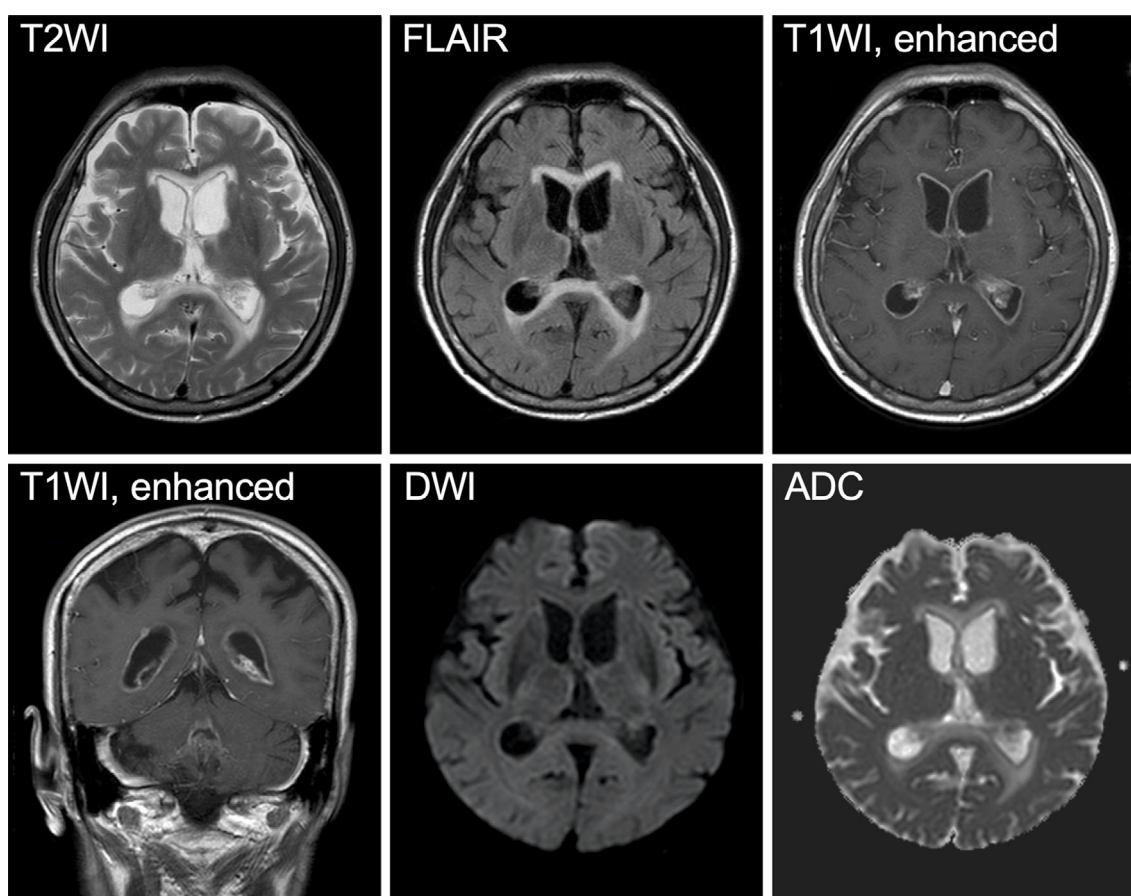
Intraventricular Primary Central Nervous System Lymphoma Mimicking Ventriculitis

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Key words: primary central nervous system lymphoma, intraventricular lymphoma, ventriculitis

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Picture 1.

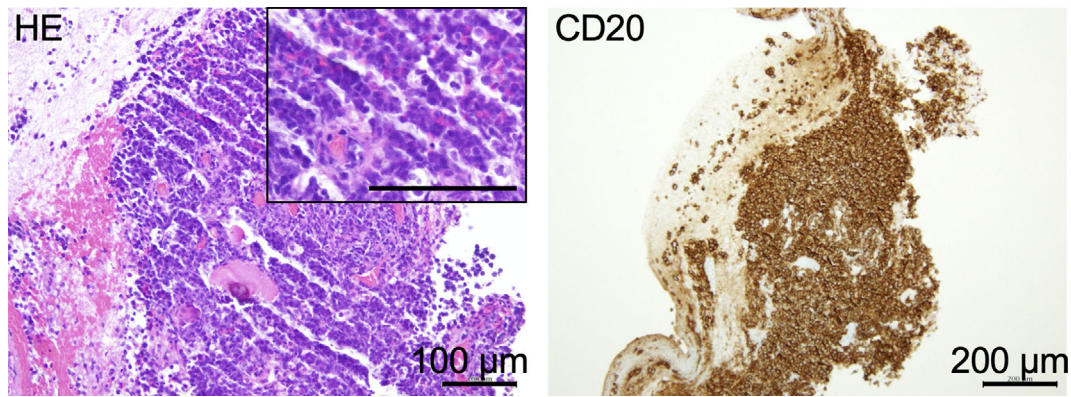
A 76-year-old man taking prednisolone for organized pneumonia presented with fatigue and consciousness disturbance progressing over a week. He had no fever or headache. He could follow only simple commands and showed weakness of the right upper extremity and bilateral Babinski signs. His neck was supple. T2-weighted and fluid-attenuated inversion recovery imaging showed ventricular

enlargement with periventricular edema, and gadolinium-enhanced imaging showed thin linear enhancement along the ventricular walls, characteristic findings of infectious ventriculitis (1). There was no diffusion restriction (Picture 1). Chest-abdominal computed tomography findings were unremarkable. Blood tests showed hyponatremia but a normal C-reactive protein level. Treponemal antibodies were negative.

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Picture 2.

An interferon-gamma release assay for tuberculosis had been negative one year earlier, and the patient's inactive lifestyle was not suggestive of new infection of tuberculosis. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) showed mild pleocytosis (25/ μ L) and a normal glucose level. A CSF smear examination and cryptococcal antigen findings were negative. Further data were not available at that time due to a long holiday period. His clinical course and laboratory data were more suggestive of malignancy than infection; therefore, a neuroendoscopic biopsy was performed. Hematoxylin-eosin staining of the ventricular walls showed infiltration of large lymphocytes with a high nuclear-cytoplasmic ratio and immunopositivity for CD20 (Picture 2), revealing diffuse large B cell lymphoma. Isolated intraventricular lymphoma is rare, but it is an important differential diagnosis of ventriculitis (2). The CSF findings differ from those of ventriculitis and can be the key for the diagnosis.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

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