



Ataxia with oculogyric crisis representing early paraneoplastic manifestation

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Paraneoplastic syndrome is an important masquerade in multisystem disease esp nervous system. Anti Yo antibody can lead to paraneoplastic cerebellar degeneration and has been linked with cancer of breast and ovary. Oculogyric crisis is a neurological emergency. Paraneoplastic syndrome is basically an immune mediated response against basic structural proteins expressed by tumour cells¹. The discovery of onconeural antibodies having specific cancer predilection has been a revolutionary breakthrough in neuroimmuno-oncology. Oculogyric crisis was originally described in patients with encephalitis lethargica, but nowadays it is more observed with exposure to medications like antiemetics, antidepressants, and antipsychotics) that cause acute dystonic reactions or tardive phenomena²

This 45 year old lady presented with fever with headache for 20 days followed by insidious onset gradually progressive clumsiness of limbs for 15 days, altered behaviour in the form of agitation, abnormal cries and inattention along with vertigo, giddiness, nausea and vomiting for 10 days along with abnormal eye movements for last 3 days. Her nervous system examination revealed a GCS of E3V3M5 with power of 4/5 in all limbs and hyperreflexia without clonus with normal plantar response with ataxia and with bilateral cerebellar signs along with oculogyric crisis (figure 1). Her brain MRI scan was normal (figure 2) and then she was evaluated for paraneoplastic encephalitis panel which came out to be strongly positive for Anti Yo antibody and she was evaluated further for evidence of breast and pelvic pathology which was negative for such malignancy at present. Paraneoplastic syndrome can have a protean manifestation. Paraneoplastic syndrome should be suspected even without evidence but anticipation of overt neoplasm. The early diagnosis and wise intervention in such situation is phenomenal in itself.



Fig.1 – oculogyric crisis



Fig.2 – MRI imaging of brain

References

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