

Acute Cysticercosis in Neurocysticercosis: An Important Issue in Tropical Neurology

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The cysticercosis is an important tapeworm infection. The problem is common in several tropical countries around the world. The contamination of the meat product by parasite can be observed and there is a strong relationship between disease occurrence and the animal farming in tropical area [1 – 3]. The infection is usually as cystic lesion. The parasitic cyst can exist at any organ including to the brain. The neurocysticercosis is a serious form of cysticercosis. The disease is usually latent. The long term infection is common. In chronic infection, the disease might result in seizure and the diagnosis of the disease is usually by neuroimaging investigation [4].

In pediatric population, the disease can be seen but little mentioned. An important consideration is on the acute problem due to the infection. In pediatric, neurocysticercosis might cause acute cysticercosis. As noted by Michell [5], “Acute cysticercosis, the most common manifestation in children, reflects the host response to the dying parasite. Children typically present with seizures and have an excellent prognosis.” In meningitis can also be seen. The acute cysticercal meningitis is rare and the cerebrospinal fluid eosinophilia might be seen [6]. In some cases, acute cysticercosis in pediatric neurocysticercosis might present with acute obstructive hydrocephalus [7]. This problem is observable in cases of intraventricular cyst [7].

Since the disease can be silent and the patient might be from remote area due to globalization. The practitioner should recognize the problem of acute cysticercosis in pediatric neurocysticercosis.

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