



Figure. (A) T2-weighted axial image shows bilateral medullary hyperintensities. (B) Axial fluid-attenuated inversion recovery image shows bilateral medullary hyperintensities. (C) T1-weighted axial image shows bilateral medullary hypointensities.

MRI in PML: Bilateral medullary lesions

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A 44-year-old woman with a history of HIV+ (CD4 126, viral load 550) admitted with pneumonia also had a 4-month history of progressive unsteadiness.

Examination revealed mild dysmetria greater in the left upper

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limb than the right, hyperreflexia globally, and ataxia. Cranial nerve, motor, and sensory examinations were unremarkable. MRI of the brain revealed bilateral medullary lesions (figure) and cerebellar atrophy, which along with the CSF being positive for JC virus supported the diagnosis of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML). The presence of medullary lesions renders this an atypical case for PML. The MRI in PML typically shows multiple lesions in the cerebral hemispheres.¹

1. Kastrup O, Maschke M, Diener HC, Wanke I. Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy limited to the brainstem. *Neuroradiology* 2002;44: 227-229.

Neurology[®]

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Neurology 2004;63;2380
DOI 10.1212/01.WNL.0000141860.97900.8A

This information is current as of December 28, 2004

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