

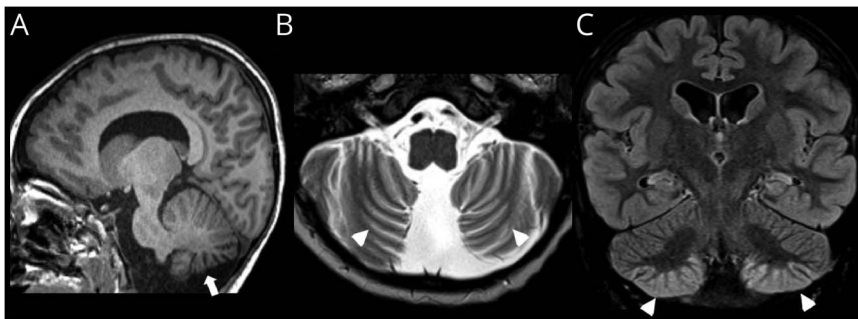
Teaching NeuroImage: Selectively Bright Inferior Cerebellum in Christianson Syndrome

Cesar Augusto P.F. Alves, MD, PhD, Simon M. Clifford, MD, Sarah McKeown Ruggiero, CGC, Ingo Helbig, MD, Madeline Chadehumbe, MD, and Karuna Shekdar, MD

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Correspondence
Dr. Alves
alvesc@chop.edu

Figure Bright Inferior Cerebellum



Brain MRI. Sagittal T1-weighted image (A) demonstrates asymmetric cerebellar atrophy with predominant inferior cerebellar involvement (arrow, A). Axial T2-weighted and coronal fluid-attenuated inversion recovery images (B and C) show cortical hyperintensity selectively in the inferior cerebellum, known as a “bright inferior cerebellum” (arrowheads, B and C).

Case Report

A 4-year-old boy presented with developmental delay (nonverbal and unable to walk or sit independently) and recurrent tonic-clonic seizures beginning at 1 month of age. EEG demonstrated underdeveloped background organization and intermittent focal right occipital slowing. Brain MRI revealed inferior cerebellar atrophy with T2-WI and FLAIR cortical hyperintensity (Figure). A *SLC9A6* c.803+3_803+6del (intronic) pathogenic variant was detected, confirming a diagnosis of Christianson syndrome (CS). CS is characterized by severe cognitive dysfunction, behavioral disorder, seizures, ataxia, and microcephaly. The condition results from loss-of-function alterations affecting sodium Na⁺/H⁺ exchange enzymes. While some clinical features may overlap with Angelman syndrome (AS), inferior cerebellar atrophy is characteristic of CS. It is important to distinguish between the 2 diagnoses because the prognosis in CS is worse than that in AS.

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Disclosure

The authors report no relevant disclosures. Go to [Neurology.org/N](https://www.neurology.org/N) for full disclosures.

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From the Division of Neuroradiology (C.A.P.F.A., S.M.C., K.S.), Department of Radiology, the Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia; and Epilepsy Neurogenetics Initiative (S.M.R., I.H., M.C.), Department of Neurology, the Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia, PA.

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Appendix Authors

Name	Location	Contribution
Cesar Augusto P.F. Alves, MD, PhD	Division of Neuroradiology, Department of Radiology, The Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia, PA	Drafting/revision of the article for content, including medical writing for content; major role in the acquisition of data; study concept or design; and analysis or interpretation of data
Simon M. Clifford, MD	Division of Neuroradiology, Department of Radiology, The Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia, PA	Drafting/revision of the article for content, including medical writing for content; analysis or interpretation of data
Sarah McKeown Ruggiero, CGC	Epilepsy Neurogenetics Initiative, Department of Neurology, The Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia, PA	Drafting/revision of the article for content, including medical writing for content; major role in the acquisition of data; and analysis or interpretation of data

Appendix (continued)

Name	Location	Contribution
Ingo Helbig, MD	Epilepsy Neurogenetics Initiative, Department of Neurology, The Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia, PA	Drafting/revision of the article for content, including medical writing for content; major role in the acquisition of data; and analysis or interpretation of data
Madeline Chadehumbe, MD	Epilepsy Neurogenetics Initiative, Department of Neurology, The Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia, PA	Drafting/revision of the article for content, including medical writing for content; major role in the acquisition of data; and analysis or interpretation of data
Karuna Shekdar, MD	Division of Neuroradiology, Department of Radiology, The Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia, PA	Drafting/revision of the article for content, including medical writing for content; major role in the acquisition of data; and analysis or interpretation of data

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