

Teaching Video NeuroImages: Hepatic myelopathy

An unusual neurologic complication of hepatic encephalopathy

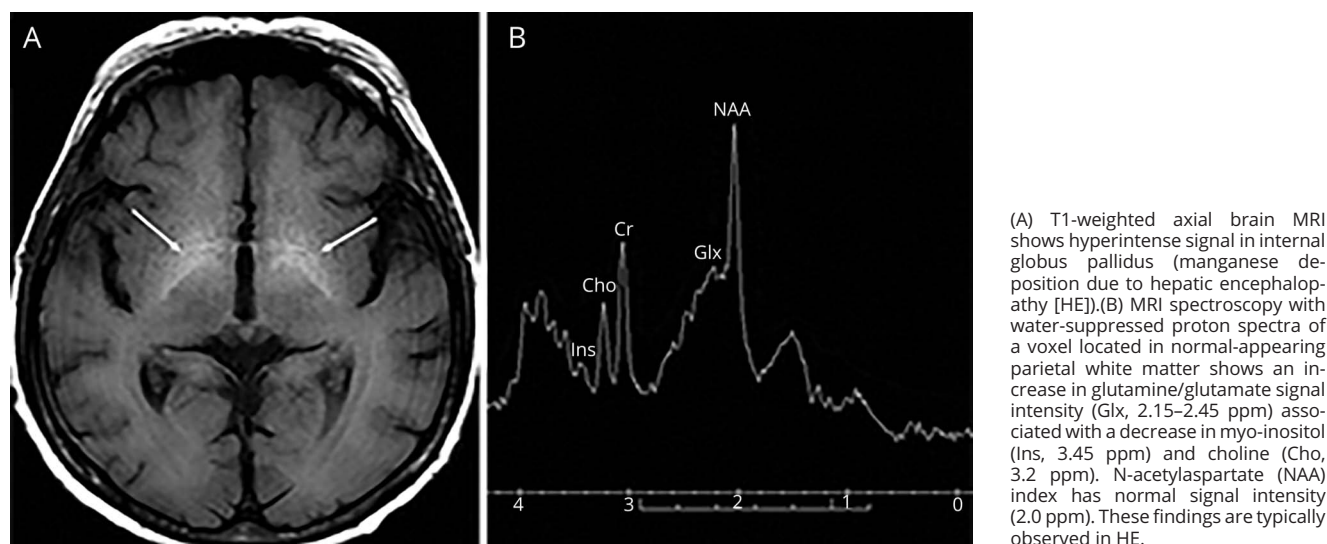
Vinicius Boaratti Ciarlariello, MD, Marcos Vinicius Tadao Fujino, MD, Marcio Dias de Almeida, MD, PhD, Orlando G.P. Barsottini, MD, PhD, and José Luiz Pedroso, MD, PhD

Correspondence

Dr. Pedroso
jlpedroso.neuro@gmail.com

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Figure Imaging and spectroscopy



A 57-year-old man with alcoholic cirrhosis presented with a 4-year history of hepatic encephalopathy (HE) and progressive gait impairment that worsened during HE (video 1). Examination disclosed spasticity and weakness in lower limbs. Brain MRI showed hyperintense signal in basal ganglia and spectroscopy disclosed increased glutamine/glutamate and decreased myo-inositol (figure). Spine MRI was normal, and other causes were ruled out. Hepatic myelopathy was diagnosed.

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Hepatic myelopathy is an unusual complication of liver disease and is characterized by progressive spasticity and lower limbs weakness over the years.¹ Symptoms usually worsen during HE episodes. Treatment of HE and liver transplantation may partially improve gait.²

Author contributions

V.B. Ciarlariello: case report project: conception, organization, execution; manuscript: writing of the first draft, review and critique. M.V.T. Fujino: case report project: conception, organization, execution; manuscript: writing of the first draft, review and critique. M.D.d. Almeida: case report project: conception, organization, execution; manuscript: review and critique. O.G.P. Barsottini: case report project: conception, organization, execution; manuscript: review and critique. J.L. Pedroso: case report project: conception, organization, execution; manuscript: review and critique.

From the Department of Neurology (V.B.C., M.V.T.F., M.D.d.A.), Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein; and Department of Neurology (O.G.P.B., J.L.P.), Ataxia Unit, Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Brazil.

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Disclosure

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