The novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2) is the cause of the COVID-19 pandemic [5]. SARS-CoV-2 demonstrates partial resemblance to SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV in phylogenetic analysis, clinical manifestations, and pathological findings [6, 7]. Reports emerging from China have described ataxia as a neurological symptom of the SARS-CoV-2 infection [5]. Opsoclonus consists of back-to-back multidirectional conjugate saccades without an inter-saccadic interval [8]. Myoclonus is defined as a sudden, brief, “shock-like”, nonepileptic involuntary movement [9], which has been described as a symptom of SARS-CoV-2 infection [10]. Opsoclonus-Myoclonus-Ataxia syndrome (OMAS) associated COVID-19 infection has been reported recently [11, 12].
Coronavirus infection primarily affects the respiratory system, also spreading from the respiratory tract to the central nervous system (CNS) [1]. CNS manifestations include febrile seizures, convulsions, altered mental status, and encephalitis [2]. Although various papers have been published describing the neuroinvasive potential of SARS-CoV-2 [3, 4], the capacity of SARS-CoV-2 to infect the CNS in humans is not well characterized, and further research regarding its unknown CNS pathology is required.

The novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2) is the cause of the COVID-19 pandemic [5]. SARS-CoV-2 demonstrates partial resemblance to SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV in phylogenetic analysis, clinical manifestations, and pathological findings [6, 7]. Reports emerging from China have described ataxia as a neurological symptom of the SARS-CoV-2 infection [5]. Opsoclonus consists of back-to-back, multidirectional, conjugate saccades without an inter-saccadic interval [8]. Myoclonus is defined as a sudden, brief, “shock-like”, nonepileptic involuntary movement [9], which has been described as a symptom of SARS-CoV-2 infection [10].

Opsoclonus-Myoclonus-Ataxia syndrome (OMAS) associated COVID-19 infection has been reported recently [11, 12].

A 32 year-old man presented with cough, fever, weakness, and loss of appetite. He denied changes in smell or taste. His father had similar symptoms 5 days earlier and both tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. He developed increasing fatigue and dyspnea but denied wheezing or chest tightness. He had watery, non-bloody diarrhea throughout the febrile period until his cough improved, and he became afebrile 11 days after diagnosis. On day 12 the patient developed ataxia and myoclonus. While hospitalized on days 17 to 20, evaluation revealed a chest x-ray consistent with viral pneumonia and a normal brain MRI. IgG antibodies were positive in serum. A lumbar puncture was not performed. Opsoclonus, myoclonus, and ataxia (Videos 1 and 2) caused the inability to ambulate without assistance. Treatment with clonazepam (1mg three times per day), divalproex (1,000 mg three times per day), and oral methylprednisolone (40 mg daily) were effective, allowing the patient to walk short distances without assistance. He had mild ataxia and minimal residual myoclonus at rest. Telehealth follow-up on day 24 demonstrated substantial improvement of gait and balance (Video 3). No opsoclonus was observed, and he demonstrated very mild ataxia, and occasional myoclonus.

The etiology of Opsoclonus-Myoclonus-Ataxia syndrome includes paraneoplastic, parainfectious, toxic-metabolic, and idiopathic causes [8]. Infectious causes of this syndrome have been reported with herpes virus, arbovirus, and several parasitic infections [13, 14, 15]. This is a case of OMAS secondary to SARS-CoV-2 infection, and its clinical presentation suggests a post-infectious mechanism that is possibly antibody-mediated.

ETHICS AND CONSENT

Consent for publication: This study was done as retrospective chart review in Prisma Health, Greenville, SC. The Prisma Health IRB provided permission for this publication. IRB number: Pro: 00100123

Patient has signed the informed consent form and has signed release form authorizing the offline and/or online distribution of his video material.
This letter is not a clinical trial, this is a case of Opsoclonus Myoclonus-Ataxia Syndrome (OMAS) secondary to SARS-CoV-2 infection, with benign prognostic, and the clinical presentation suggests a post-infectious mechanism, possibly antibody-mediated.

We confirm that we have read the Journal’s position on issues involved in ethical publication and affirm that this work is consistent with those guidelines.

Available of data and materials: all relevant data generated or analyzed during this study are available for qualified researchers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors thank Isabelle McDaniel for the many hours invested in revising the article and administrative support.

COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors have no competing interests to declare.

AUTHOR ROLES

1. Research project: A. Conception, B. Organization, C. Execution.

2. Statistical Analysis: A. Design, B. Execution, C. Review and Critique.

3. Manuscript Preparation: A. Writing of the first draft, B. Review and Critique.

EUM: 1A,1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B
KO: 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B
SR: 1B, 3B
JA: 1B, 3B
VC: 1B, 3B
FJR: 1A,1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B

AUTHOR AFFILIATIONS

Enrique Urrea-Mendoza orcid.org/0000-0002-1588-8933
Prisma Health, Greenville, SC;
University of South Carolina School of Medicine-Greenville, Prisma Health, Greenville, SC

Kimberly Okafor
University of South Carolina School of Medicine-Greenville, Prisma Health, Greenville, SC

Senthuran Ravindran orcid.org/0000-0002-2468-8116
University of South Carolina School of Medicine-Greenville, Prisma Health, Greenville, SC

John Absher orcid.org/0000-0002-6292-2321
Prisma Health, Greenville, SC;
University of South Carolina School of Medicine-Greenville, Prisma Health, Greenville, SC

Varun Chaubal
Prisma Health, Greenville, SC;
University of South Carolina School of Medicine-Greenville, Prisma Health, Greenville, SC

Fredy J. Revilla
Prisma Health, Greenville, SC;
University of South Carolina School of Medicine-Greenville, Prisma Health, Greenville, SC

REFERENCES

1. Asadi-Pooya AA, Simani L. Central nervous system manifestations of COVID-19: A systematic review. J Neural Sci. 2020; 413: 116832. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jns.2020.116832

2. Desforges M, Le Coupanec A, Dubeau P, et al. Human Coronavirus and Other Respiratory Viruses: Underestimated Opportunistic Pathogens of the Central Nervous System? Viruses. 2019; 12(1). DOI: https://doi.org/10.3390/v12010014

3. Li YC, Bai WZ, Hashikawa T. The neuroinvasive potential of SARS-CoV2 may play a role in the respiratory failure of COVID-19 patients. J Med Virol. 2020; 92(6): 552–555.  DOI: https://doi.org/10.1002/jmv.25728

4. Yachou Y, El Idrissi A, Belapasov V, Ait Benali S. Neuroinvasion, neurotropic, and neuroinflammatory events of SARS-CoV-2: understanding the neurological manifestations in COVID-19 patients. Neurrol Sci. 2020 Oct; 41(10): 2657–2669. Epub 2020 Jul 28. PMID: 32725449; PMCID: PMC7385206. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s10072-020-04575-3

5. Mao L, Jin H, Wang M, et al. Neurologic Manifestations of Hospitalized Patients With Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Wuhan, China. JAMA Neurol. Published online April 10, 2020. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaneurol.2020.1127

6. Lu R, Zhao X, Li J, et al. Genomic characterisation and epidemiology of 2019 novel coronavirus: implications for virus origins and receptor binding. Lancet. 2020; 395(10224): 565–574. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30251-8

7. Xie M, Chen Q. Insight into 2019 novel coronavirus - An updated interim review and lessons from SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV [published online ahead of print, 2020 Apr 1]. Int J Infect Dis. 2020; 94: 119124. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2020.03.071

8. Oh SY, Kim JS, Dieterich M. Update on opsoclonus-myoclonus syndrome in adults. J Neurol. 2019; 266(6): 15411548. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s00415-018-9138-7
9. Burdick D, Agarwal P. 2016. Myoclonus. In Non-Parkinsonian Movement Disorders (eds D.A. Hall and B.R. Barton). DOI: https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118474075.ch4

10. Rábano-Suárez P, Bermejo-Guerrero L, Méndez-Guerrero A, Parra-Serrano J, Toledo-Alfocea D, Sánchez-Tejerina D, Santos-Fernández T, Folgueira-López MD, Gutiérrez-Gutiérrez J, Ayuso-García B, González de la Aleja J, Benito-León J. Generalized myoclonus in COVID-19. Neurology. 2020 Aug 11; 95(6): e767–e772. Epub 2020 May 21. PMID: 32439821; PMCID: PMC7455360. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.0000000000009829

11. Sanguinetti S, Ramdhani RA. Opsoclonus Myoclonus Ataxia Syndrome Related to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). J Neuroophthalmol. 2020 Sep 7. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 32925477. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1097/WNO.0000000000001129

12. Shah PB, Desai SD. Opsoclonus myoclonus ataxia syndrome (OMAS) in the setting of COVID-19 infection. Neurology. 2020 Oct 1:10.1212/WNL.0000000000010978. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33004603. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.0000000000010978

13. Chen Y, Chen D, Zhou X, Zhang H, Liao S, Xu Z, Xu P. Opsoclonus-myoclonus syndrome associated with herpes simplex virus infection: a case report. Int J Neurosci. 2020 Mar 9: 1–5. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 32116082. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/00207454.2020.1737531

14. Afzal A, Ashraf S, Shamim S. Opsoclonus myoclonus syndrome: an unusual presentation for West Nile virus encephalitis. Proceedings (Baylor University. Medical Center). 2014; 27(2): 108–110. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/08998280.2014.11929073

15. Bose K, Saha S, Islam MR, Chakraborty C, Laskar M. Opsoclonus myoclonus ataxia syndrome due to falciparum malaria in two Indian children. Indian J Ophthalmol. 2016 Nov; 64(11): 852–854. PMID: 27958213; PMCID: PMC5200992. DOI: https://doi.org/10.4103/0301-4738.195611

TO CITE THIS ARTICLE:
Urrea-Mendoza E, Okafor K, Ravindran S, Absher J, Chaubal V, Revilla FJ. Opsoclonus-Myoclonus-Ataxia Syndrome (OMAS) Associated with SARS-CoV-2 Infection: Post-Infectious Neurological Complication with Benign Prognosis. Tremor and Other Hyperkinetic Movements. 2021; 11(1): 7, pp. 1–4. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5334/tohm.580

Submitted: 28 October 2020   Accepted: 21 January 2021   Published: 10 February 2021

COPYRIGHT:
© 2021 The Author(s). This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC-BY 4.0), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/.
Tremor and Other Hyperkinetic Movements is a peer-reviewed open access journal published by Ubiquity Press.