Post Covid Lower Limb Axonal Neuropathy – A Case Report

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ISSN: 2231-2196 (Print) 0975-5241 (Online)

Received: 12.08.2021 Revised: 04.09.2021 Accepted: 30.09.2021 Published: 03.01.2022

ABSTRACT

Introduction: The spectrum of neurologic complications subsequent to novel coronavirus 2 (SARS-Cov-2) infection is broad. COVID-19, caused by the infection with the SARS-Cov-2, is pandemic affecting the whole globe with periods of exacerbations and remissions. Neurological manifestations occur in about 36.4% of patients infected with SARS-Cov-2.

Case Report: Here reported case is of 37 year-old female who was clinically diagnosed with post covid lower limb axonal neuropathy after 50 days of covid 19 infection. A survey on neurological manifestations was specially designed addressed 10 neurological manifestations of COVID-19: headache, altered sensation, nausea and vomiting, sudden hemiparesis (stroke), numbness and paresthesia, vertigo, ataxia, seizure, encephalitis/meningitis, Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), and myelitis.

Conclusion: Physical rehabilitation playing a significant part in treating balance, strength and returning to independence is known worldwide.

Key Words: Axonal Neuropathy, Post Covid Complication, Physiotherapy, Nerve Conduction Velocity test, Balance, Strength

INTRODUCTION

COVID-19, caused by the infection with the SARS-Cov-2, is pandemic affecting the whole globe with periods of exacerbations and remissions. The spectrum of neurologic complications subsequent to novel coronavirus 2 (SARS-Cov-2) infection is broad. Neurological manifestations occur in about 36.4% of patients infected with SARS-Cov-2 and span several domains within the central and peripheral nervous system.1 2 One of those is sub-acute peripheral neuropathy. Here reported case is of 37 year old female who was clinically diagnosed with post covid lower limb axonal neuropathy after 50 days of covid 19 infection.

CASE REPORT

This healthy 37-years-old female got tested positive with covid 19 in early May 2021. After 25 days of infection, she felt swelling over right eye for which she consulted an ophthalmologist who gave her 5 dose of methylprednisolone IV daily for choroidal thickening. After 2 weeks she felt sudden numbness in her both lower limbs which not only made her ambulation difficult but also lead to domestic fall once. Consequently, she consulted an orthopedic surgeon who further commented L5-S1 disc bulging with haemangioma based on MRI. Blood reports were suggestive of reduced haemoglobin 9.5gm/dl along with reduction in P.C.V , M.C.V. , M.CH, M.C.H.C. with values 30.8%, 60.5%, 18.7%, 30.8% respectively. Furthermore, NCV finding concluded axonal motor neuropathy.

The patient had no co-morbidity hence diabetic neuropathy was ruled out. Furthermore, since the patient developed manifestations after covid 19 infection, Guillain Barre Syndrome was first on our differential list. Ascending flaccid paralysis, areflexia but in contrast our patient had involvement of lower back, lower limb till distal thigh. Moreover, patient had an acute presentation which goes against the chronic course of multiple sclerosis with no demyelinating lesions on MRI- brain and spinal cord. Considering nutritional neuropathy, a classic B12 deficiency scenario, presents with chronic fatigue and neurological symptoms like tingling, numbness and loss of balance, Despite the Methylcobalmine injections 1000mcg/ml for 5 doses there was no relief in pain, but the numbness went down to 50% as stated by pa-
Peripheral neuropathy represents a spectrum of diseases with different etiologies, of which the commonest are certain co-morbidities like diabetes and can also be genetically inherited. Survey on neurological manifestations was specially designed for COVID-19 patients by researchers which addressed 10 neurological manifestations of COVID-19: headache, altered sensation, nausea and vomiting, sudden hemiparesis (stroke), numbness and paresthesia, vertigo, ataxia, seizure, encephalitis/meningitis, Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), and myelitis. Neurological manifestations were later confirmed by a thorough review of all available patient records. Peripheral neuropathies are commonest neurological conditions having an incidence of 77/100,000 per year and a prevalence of 1–12% in all age groups and up to 30% in older people. Physical rehabilitation playing a significant part in treating balance, strength and returning to independence is known worldwide.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Authors sincerely thank patient for her co-operation and adherence towards rehabilitation throughout the entire period of assessment and Khyati College of Physiotherapy for aiding with specific instruments when needed. Authors acknowledge the immense help received from the scholars whose articles are cited and included in references of this manuscript. The authors are also grateful to authors/editors/publishers of all those articles, journals and books from where the literature for this article has been reviewed and discussed

Source of Funding:
Self-funded

Conflict of Interest:
Authors declare they have no conflict of interest.

Authors’ Contribution:
Dr Yashasvi and Dr Dhara conceived and conceptualized the idea. Dr Yashasvi, Dr Dhara and Dr Khanjan were involved with analysis of the facts, differential diagnosis and backing it up with theoretical framework. Dr Yashasvi drafted the manuscript. Dr Dhara reviewed the manuscript.

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