Letters to the Editor

Spinal Intramedullary Cysticercosis: A Summary of Three Cases in Thailand

Sir,

Cysticercosis is an important cestode infection. The infection is due to the ingestion of food contaminated with parasite egg [Figure 1]. The formation of parasitic cyst [Figure 2] inside the body is the main clinical problem of cysticercosis [Figure 2]. The infection can be at any organ systems including the neurological system. The specific neurological infection of cysticercosis is called neurocysticercosis. Neurocysticercosis is a common problem seen worldwide. The problem is considered an important tropical neurological infection. Most patients with neurocysticercosis have the pathological at brains. The patients might have no symptom or present with...
unexplained neurological problems such as seizure. Apart from brain, neurocysticercosis is detectable at the spinal cord. The extramedullary or intramedullary neurocysticercosis can be seen in clinical practice. In medicine, spinal intramedullary cysticercosis is an extremely rare condition. Less than 100 cases are available on the international publications.

Here, the authors summarize the data on published cases from Thailand; a tropical endemic country of cysticercosis. Based on the literature search on international and local databases (PubMed, Scopus, and Thai Index Medicus), there are only 3 publications on spinal intramedullary cysticercosis from Thailand.[1-3] There are 2 female and 1 male. All patients present with spinal cord compression and one case had additional bilateral sensory neural hearing loss and hydrocephalus. The lesions can be seen at any spinal cord levels, and multi-level involvement is common (cervical level 1 case, thoracic level 3 cases, and lumbar level 3 cases). Syringomyelia is an additional spinal cord problem in 1 case. All patients got surgical treatment, and only 2 from 3 cases have a complete recovery. The case without complete recovery ends up with death due to status epilepticus and septic shock.

**Financial support and sponsorship**
Nil.

**Conflicts of interest**
There are no conflicts of interest.

**References**

1. Jarupant W, Sithinamsuwan P, Udommongkol C, Reuarrom K, Nidhinandana S, Suwantamee J, et al. Spinal cord compression and bilateral sensory neural hearing loss: An unusual manifestation of neurocysticercosis. J Med Assoc Thai 2004;87:1244-9.
2. Prabhawongse P. Spinal cysticercosis: Report a case. J Thai Orthop Assoc 1983;8:127-30.
3. Prasathapong S. Intramedullary cysticercosis: First case report in Thailand and literature review. Chula Med J 1995;39:443-50.

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.