



Chronic meningitis mimicking idiopathic intracranial hypertension: a surprising diagnosis

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INTRODUCTION

Chronic meningitis is a clinical disorder characterized by meningeal inflammation. An elevated protein level and pleocytosis lasting longer than 4 weeks are expected. It often presents with symptoms of elevated intracranial pressure, cranial neuropathies or focal neurologic deficits.

CASE REPORT

We present a 13-year-old girl with headache complaint for about 2 months and papilledema on fundoscopic examination. The brain magnetic resonance imaging and magnetic resonance venography were unremarkable. Lumbar puncture revealed pleocytosis and increased protein level. No microorganisms were detected in the cerebrospinal fluid culture. We considered the diagnosis of chronic meningitis, mimicking idiopathic intracranial hypertension, in the patient. She improved rapidly antibiotic therapy.

CONCLUSION

The case highlights that physicians should not prescribe treatment for idiopathic intracranial hypertension without performing a lumbar puncture.

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