

Case reports

Tuberculous spondylitis: a cause for paraplegia in lupus

A. A. Drosos, S. H. Constantopoulos, and H. M. Moutsopoulos

Department of Medicine, Medical School, University of Ioannina, 453 32 Ioannina, Greece

Received November 20, 1984/Accepted January 21, 1985

Summary. A case of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) with paraplegia due to tuberculous spondylitis is presented.

Key words: Systemic lupus erythematosus – Tuberculous spondylitis – Paraplegia

Introduction

Manifestations of problems in the central nervous system (CNS) in patients suffering from systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) can be either due to the disease or secondary to drugs, infection or neoplasia [1, 2]. The most common CNS manifestations of SLE are psychosis, epilepsy, chorea, organic brain syndrome, meningitis and peripheral neuropathy [3–6]. Hemiplegia or paraplegia are rare [7]. The differential diagnosis between SLE manifestations in the CNS and secondary causes of CNS involvement in SLE is difficult due to lack of specific tests [8]. We present a patient with SLE and progressive paraplegia due to tuberculous spondylitis and cold abscess formation.