

Editorial

- Nature's wisdom during aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage
A. Goel 165

Review Articles

- Deep brain stimulation for Parkinson's disease
D. Panikar, A. Kishore 167
- Friedreich's ataxia – yesterday, today and tomorrow
A. Chakravarty 176
- Parkinsonism plus syndrome – A review
K. Mitra, P. K. Gangopadhaya, S. K. Das 183

Original Articles

- Measuring the corpus callosum in schizophrenia: a technique with neuroanatomical and cytoarchitectural basis
G. Venkatasubramanian, P. N. Jayakumar, B. N. Gangadhar, N. Janakiramaiah, D. K. Subbakrishna, M. S. Keshavan 189
- Foramen magnum tumors: A series of 30 cases
P. Sarat Chandra, A. K. Jaiswal, V. S. Mehta 193
- Intraventricular sodium nitroprusside therapy: A future promise for refractory subarachnoid hemorrhage-induced vasospasm
R. Kumar, A. Pathak, S. N. Mathuriya, N. Khandelwal 197
- Ventilatory management of respiratory failure in patients with severe Guillain-Barré syndrome
A. N. Aggarwal, D. Gupta, V. Lal, D. Behera, S. K. Jindal, S. Prabhakar 203
- Three-dimensional CT angiography in the evaluation of cerebral arteries in acute hemorrhage
K. V. Rajagopal, B. N. Lakhkar, D. K. Acharya 206
- Nadroparin plus aspirin versus aspirin alone in the treatment of acute ischemic stroke
G. R. K. Sarma, A. K. Roy 208
- Changes in the isoprenoid pathway with transcendental meditation and Reiki healing practices in seizure disorder
R. Kumar A, P. A. Kurup 211
- Missile injuries of the brain: Results of less aggressive surgery
P. Singh 215
- Plasma antioxidant vitamins in brain tumors
G. M. Rao, A. V. Rao, A. Raja, S. Rao, A. Rao 220
- Deletion analysis of the dystrophin gene in Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy patients: Use in carrier diagnosis
D. Kumari, A. Mital, M. Gupta, S. Goyle 223

Primary degenerative cerebellar ataxias in ethnic Bengalees in West Bengal: some observations <i>A. Chakravarty, S. C. Mukherjee</i>	227
Relevance of computerized electroencephalographic topography (Brain Mapping) in ischemic stroke <i>L. Pinheiro, A. K. Roy, G. R. K. Sarma, A. Kumar</i>	235
Association of primary central nervous system lymphomas with the Epstein-Barr virus <i>C. R. Rao, K. Jain, K. Bhatia, K. C. Lakshmaiah, S. K. Shankar</i>	237
Prevalence of photosensitivity – An Indian experience <i>A. K. Roy, L. Pinheiro, S. V. Rajesh</i>	241

Case Reports

Acute onset paraneoplastic cerebellar degeneration in a patient with small cell lung cancer <i>R. Bhatia, S. Prabhakar, V. Lal, D. Khurana, C. P. Das</i>	244
Cerebellar hemisphere, an uncommon location for pleomorphic xanthoastrocytoma and lipidized glioblastoma multiformis <i>S. Kumar, T. M. Retnam, G. Menon, S. Nair, R. N. Bhattacharya, V. V. Radhakrishnan</i>	246
Extranasal glial heterotopia: Case report <i>S. Mohanty, K. Das, M. A. Correa, A.J. D 'Cruz</i>	248
Congenital absence of the posterior elements of C2 vertebra: A case report <i>P. Trivedi, K. H. Vyas, S. Behari</i>	250
Patient with limb girdle dystrophy presenting with dopa-responsive dystonia – A case report <i>R. Verma, S. Misra, N. N. Singh, D. Kishore</i>	252
Akathisia – diagnostic dilemma and behavioral treatment <i>S. K. Mattoo, G. Singh, A. Vikas</i>	254
Two siblings with Allgrove's syndrome and extrapyramidal features <i>A. Jacob, K. Parameswaran, A. Kishore</i>	257
Giant cell reparative granuloma of the base of the skull presenting as a parapharyngeal mass <i>S. Magu, S. K. Mathur, S. P. Gulati, A. Yadav, V. Kaushal</i>	260
Simultaneous occurrence of multiple meningiomas in different neuraxial compartments <i>H. S. Bhatoe</i>	263
Post-cardiorespiratory arrest beta-alpha coma: an unusual electroencephalographic phenomenon <i>G. R. K. Sarma, A. Kumar, A. K. Roy, L. Pinheiro</i>	266

Laparoscopic management of complicated ventriculoperitoneal shunts <i>S. Jain, D. Bhandarkar, R. Shah, U. Vengsarkar</i>	269
Internuclear ophthalmoplegia and torsional nystagmus: An MRI correlate <i>A. K. Srivastava, M. Tripathi, S. B. Gaikwad, M. V. Padma, S. Jain</i>	271

Short Reports

Rhabdoid tumor of the thalamus <i>R. Kachhara, T. M. Retnam, S. Kumar, S. Nair, R. N. Bhattacharya, T. Krishnamoorthy, V. V. Radhakrishnan</i>	273
Liponeurocytoma of the cerebellum – A case report <i>R. Kachhara, R. N. Bhattacharya, S. Nair, V. V. Radhakrishnan</i>	274
Cytodiagnosis of anaplastic astrocytoma with metastasis to the cerebrospinal fluid in a neonate – A case report <i>S. Goel, K. Kapila, C. Sarkar, K. Verma</i>	276
The significance of corpora amylacea in mesial temporal lobe epilepsy <i>P. Joseph Cherian, V. V. Radhakrishnan, K. Radhakrishnan</i>	277
Holoprosencephaly with cyclopia – Report of a pathological study <i>N. Arathi, A. Mahadevan, V. Santosh, T. C. Yasha, S. K. Shankar</i>	279

Letter to Editor

Recurrent Miller Fisher syndrome	283
Management of ocular myasthenia gravis coexisting with thyroid ophthalmopathy	283
Pseudotumour cerebri and Guillain-Barre syndrome: cause or effect?	285
Predicting long-term morbidity in Indian patients with ischemic stroke	285
Germinoma of the pineal gland	286
Osteoma mimicking a partly calcified meningioma	287
Cerebellopontine angle epidermoid tumor presenting with hemifacial spasms	288
Cavernous sinus syndrome due to syphilitic pachymeningitis	289
Unusual neurological complications in a case of organophosphate poisoning	290
Acute epidural hematoma following twist-drill craniostomy for chronic subdural hematoma – A rare complication	291
Congenital cholesteatoma	292
A case of acute flaccid paralysis as an unusual presentation of serum sickness	293
Primary cranial vault non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	293
Spontaneous evacuation of cerebellar abscess through the middle ear	294
Surgery for multiple intracranial hydatid cysts	295

Neuroimage

Multifocal intracranial rhabdoid tumor <i>A. Suri, V. P. Singh, S. S. Kale, V. S. Mehta, S. Gaikwad</i>	297
--	-----

Case Report

Two siblings with Allgrove's syndrome and extrapyramidal features

A. Jacob, K. Parameswaran, A. Kishore

Department of Neurology, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Kerala, India.

We report two siblings with Allgrove's syndrome and extrapyramidal features. Though various neurological abnormalities have been described in this disorder, we report the first patient of Allgrove's syndrome associated with dystonia and chorea.

Key Words: Allgrove's syndrome, Alacrimia, Achalasia, Dystonia, Chorea.

Introduction

Allgrove's syndrome is a rare disorder clinically characterized by achalasia cardia, alacrimia and adrenocortical insufficiency (the triple A syndrome). After the initial description of two pairs of siblings in separate families by Allgrove et al, approximately 70 cases have been described.¹ Autonomic dysfunction was subsequently found to be a frequent association, hence the name "4 A syndrome" has been proposed.² The presence of palmoplantar hyperkeratosis, neurological manifestations, short stature, microcephaly and osteoporosis indicate the multisystem nature of this rare disorder.³⁻⁹ Extrapyramidal involvement is rare and parkinsonism is the only manifestation reported so far.⁹ We report a unique familial Allgrove's syndrome in two siblings who exhibited dystonia and chorea.

Case Reports

An 18-year-old lady was referred for evaluation of involuntary movements of 5 years duration. She was the eldest child of a first-degree consanguineous marriage and had a normal perinatal history. She had delayed motor, mental and language milestones, which gradually improved over the years. She could speak fairly well and was almost independent in all activities of daily living by the age of 10 years. She had dysphagia with regurgitation of food from early childhood that was diagnosed

as achalasia cardia at the age of 12 years. Balloon dilatation relieved her dysphagia. According to her mother she had never cried in her life and her mouth was always dry. She gave no history of postural syncope, palpitation, disturbance of sweating, diarrhea or constipation. At 13 years of age, sustained neck turning to the right side was observed. Attempts to turn her neck to the left were painful. In addition, she had random sudden jerks of the neck to the right side. There was no posturing of any other body parts, tremulousness, slowness or stiffness of the limbs. These involuntary movements were absent during sleep. There was no history of reduced vision, hearing, seizures, stiffness, weakness, wasting, unsteadiness or numbness.

The examination of the index case revealed normal heart rate and blood pressure. There was no postural hypotension. She had ichthyosis of both lower limbs but no skin hyperpigmentation. Her conjunctiva and oral cavity were dry. There was no KF ring or cataract. Fundi were normal. Formal IQ testing showed score of 48 by Wechsler Adult intelligence score. Pupils were irregular, asymmetric in size (right = 3mm, left = 5mm) with no reaction to light or accommodation. Extraocular movements were normal. Her jaw jerk was brisk. There was no jaw, facial or palatal weakness. Her left sternomastoid was hypertrophic and she had rotational torticollis to the right (Figure 1). Her right shoulder was elevated and right trapezius was hypertrophic. In addition she also had frequent, brief, jerky head movements to the right occurring at rest and increasing on attempts to turn the neck to the left. These movements worsened with attention and excitement. There was also frequent facial grimacing associated with closure of eyes (Figure 2). Voluntary suppression of these movements couldn't be checked because of poor cooperation and her low IQ. She also had intermittent, random predominantly distal, jerky movements of the upper and lower limbs, which appeared semi-purposeful and migratory in nature. She had bilateral striatal toes. Her muscle bulk and power were normal. All deep tendon reflexes were brisk along with

Asha Kishore

Department of Neurology, SCTIMST, Kerala-695011, India. E-mail: asha@sctimst.ker.nic.in



Figure 1: Rotational torticollis to the right in index case with Allgrove's Syndrome. Note the hypertrophy of the left sternocleidomastoid

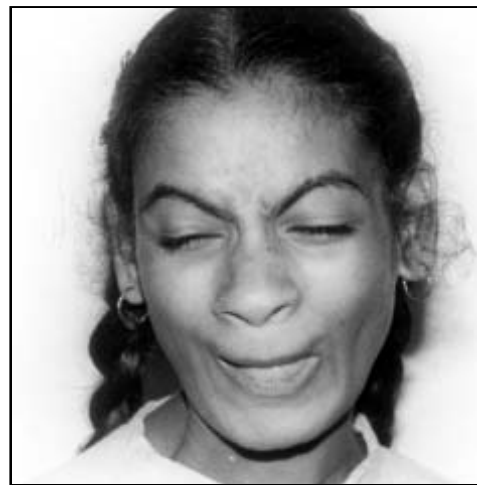


Figure 2: Facial grimacing and eye closure

bilateral finger flexion and positive Hoffmann's sign. Cerebellar and sensory systems were normal.

The index case's younger sister had similar neurological findings though milder in intensity. She had mental subnormality, achalasia (operated), alacrimia and reduced salivation along with neck dystonia and facial grimacing.

Hemogram and routine biochemical tests, and chest X-ray were normal. Serology for syphilis, rheumatoid factor, SLE and antiphospholipid antibodies were negative. Acanthocytes were not seen in repeated examinations of peripheral smear. Slit lamp examination for KF ring was negative and serum ceruloplasmin was normal. ENMG was normal. MRI brain didn't reveal any abnormality.

Serum cortisol at 8 am was 6.4 micro gram/dl (Normal 5 to 29 micro gram/dl). Schirmer's test was negative suggesting reduced lacrimation in both eyes. Basal values were 0 mm in both eyes at 5 minutes and reflex secretion was 0 mm in the right eye, and 2 mm in the left eye at 2 minutes (normal is more than 5 mm). Tests for salivatory function showed markedly reduced salivation (1.38ml/5mts, control-19.9 ml/5 minutes). Heart variability with respiration was normal. Max R-R/Min R-R was 1.35 (Normal>1.2). Normal heart rate variability was present—79-98 bpm (Normal> 15bpm). Heart rate response to standing was normal. 30:15 ratio was 1.1 (normal>1.04).

Discussion

Our patient and her sibling had the classical features of Allgrove's syndrome—achalasia, alacrimia along with autonomic dysfunction.

Their neurological manifestations included the already well-known features such as mental retardation and corticospinal dysfunction. In addition, they had prominent neck dystonia, facial and limb chorea, which have hitherto not been reported in this syndrome. The only extrapyramidal feature of Allgrove's

syndrome described so far in the literature is parkinsonism in brothers who had in addition, dementia, and pyramidal signs.⁵ The levels of CSF homovanillic acid and 5-hydroxy indole acetic acid (the major metabolites of dopamine and serotonin in the brain) were low in them. Positron emission photometry scans in the older boy showed reduced uptake of 18-F-Fluorodopa in the striatum. However, treatment with levodopa up to 800 mg per day produced only mild improvement in their parkinsonism. The lack of clinical response to levodopa could suggest additional involvement at the level of striatal dopamine receptors or pathways downstream in the basal ganglia circuits.

The presence of dystonia and chorea in our patients indicate basal ganglia involvement. We did not have facilities for PET studies to examine the pre- and postsynaptic dopaminergic systems in our patient. The abnormality reported in neuroimaging in this condition is periventricular brain heterotopias. It has been suggested that heterotopias could indicate abnormality of gene (genes) causing heterotopias or neurotrophic activity during pre- and postnatal life and that multiple or contiguous genes may be involved in Allgrove's syndrome.

This syndrome has been mapped to chromosome 12q 13 near the type II keratin gene cluster.³ Intra and interfamilial variability of the severity observed in Allgrove's syndrome implies a highly variable expression of the defective gene.

In conclusion, the neurological manifestations of dystonia and chorea in the two siblings we have reported here are believed to be unique. The neurochemical and neuropathological basis of basal ganglia dysfunction in this disorder are unknown. It may be worthwhile exploring the multiple/contiguous gene theory of this disease by including the dopamine receptor genes since dystonia, chorea and levodopa-unresponsive parkinsonism could all result from abnormalities in the striatal dopamine receptors of the basal ganglia circuits.

References

1. Allgrove J, Clayden GS, Grant DB, Macaulay JC. Familial glucocorticoid deficiency with achalasia of the cardia and deficient tear production. *Lancet* 1978;1:1284-6.
2. Gazarian M, Cowell CT, Bonney M, et al. The 4 A syndrome: adrenocortical insufficiency associated achalasia, alacrimia and autonomic and other neurological abnormalities. *Eur J Pediatr* 1995;154:18-23.
3. Huebner A, Yoon SJ, Ozkinay F, et al. Triple A syndrome-clinical aspects and molecular genetics. *Endocr Res* 2000;26:751-9.
4. Carla Bentes, Mariana Santos -Bento, Joao de Sa, et al. Allgrove's syndrome in adulthood. *Muscle Nerve* 2001;24:292-6.
5. Grant DB, Dunger DB, Smith I, et al. Familial glucocorticoid deficiency with achalasia of the cardia associated with mixed neuropathy, long tract degeneration and mild dementia. *Eur J Pediatric* 1992;151:85-9.
6. Kasirga E, Ozkinay F, Tutuncoglu S, et al. Four siblings with achalasia, alacrimia and neurological abnormalities in a consanguineous family. *Clin Genet* 1996;49:296-9.
7. Garcia Compean D, Raman Martinez H, Villegas-Gonzalez MJ, et al. Achalasia, alacrimia without adrenocortical insufficiency with peripheral and autonomic neurological dysfunction (Allgrove's syndrome) *Rev Gastroenterol Mex* 1998;63:33-6.
8. Moore PS, Couch RM, Perry YS, et al. Allgrove's syndrome: an autosomal recessive syndrome of ACTH insensitivity, achalasia and alacrimia. *Clin Endocrinol (OXF)* 1991;34:107-14.
9. Hammami A, Trabelsi M, Bennaceur B, et al. An association of Addison's Disease, achalasia of the cardia and alacrimation . Apropos of 2 cases. *Ann Pediatr (Paris)* 1989;36:279-82.

Accepted on 02.11.2001.

