OPTIC NEURITIS RELATED TO CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY DEMYELINATING POLYNEUROPATHY - A CASE REPORT

Der-Chong Tsai, Po-Kang Lin,
Kon-Ping Lin*, Ko-Pei Kao*,
Jorn-Hon Liu

Optic neuropathy is an uncommon manifestation of chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP). We report a 33-year-old man of CIDP with recurrent optic neuritis. Abnormal ophthalmic findings including decreased vision, visual field defect, mild pallor of optic discs, and prolonged p100 latency on pattern visual evoked potential (VEP). Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) disclosed enhancement of left optic nerve on T2-weighted image. In spite of treatment with pulse therapy of intravenous methylprednisolone and followed by oral prednisolone, attack of optic neuritis recurred 4 months later.

Key words: chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP), optic neuritis, optic neuropathy.

INTRODUCTION

CIDP is a widespread, often patchy, demyelination of peripheral nervous system (PNS). It usually extends over 8 to 12 weeks and may have a relapsing or chronic progressive course[1-3].

Optic neuropathy is an uncommon manifestation of CIDP. Only sporadic reports have mentioned CNS involvement in CIDP[4-9]. Subclinical abnormalities can be detected by MRI or evoked potentials. Although it is related to immunopathological mechanism, its accurate etiology is still poorly understood. Treatment with corticosteroid is main strategy for CIDP or optic neuropathy, but the course and prognosis of optic neuropathy related to CIDP are not well documented in the literatures. In this case report, we illustrate the abnormal findings, relapsing course, and treatment of optic neuropathy in a CIDP patient.

CASE REPORT

A 32-year-old male initially noticed numbness over his right third, forth and fifth fingers and followed gradually by numbness and weakness of right

Received: January 25, 2000, Revised: February 7, 2000, Accepted: June 15, 2000.
*Department of Ophthalmology, *Institute of Neurology, Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, National Yang-Ming University,*
Correspondence and reprint requests to: Po-Kang Lin, Department of Ophthalmology, Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, 201, Sec. 2, Shih-Pai Rd., Taipei, Taiowan.