



AN INTERESTING CASE OF HEADACHE

Medicine

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ABSTRACT

72 years old Male patient came with complaints of Headache for 2months frontotemporal associated with scalp tenderness, eye pain and pain in the jaw while chewing. History of low-grade fever for past 10 days not associated with chills. ESR was high 75mm. CRP was raised 4.8mg/dL. Diagnosis of giant cell arteritis was confirmed by obtaining a biopsy of the temporal artery. The patient was started on a high dose of corticosteroid therapy which gave dramatic clinical response noted.

KEYWORDS

Headache, fever, scalp tenderness

INTRODUCTION

Giant cell arteritis is inflammation of the medium & large-sized arteries. It characteristically involves one or more branches of carotid artery, particularly the temporal artery seen almost exclusively in individuals more than 50 years, more common in women than men. Shows a dramatic improvement in symptoms on starting glucocorticoid therapy.

RESULT:

ESR: 75mm

CRP: 4.8mg/dl

CT BRAIN : Showed normal study

Temporal artery biopsy:

showed infiltration of the vessel wall with WBC. Giant cells within a granuloma of granulomatous inflammation were seen .

DISCUSSION:

Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is form of vasculitis, a group of disorders that causes the inflammation of blood vessels. GCA most commonly affects the arteries of head. Affects patients more than 50 years, with recurrent headache and complaints of low-grade fever, raised ESR and CRP. Confirmed by biopsy. The patient is started on a high dose of corticosteroid therapy, which is reduced over a period of time. If GCA is not treated, it may cause permanent vision loss.