

Systemic lupus erythematosus with multiple perivascular spongy changes in the cerebral deep structures, midbrain and cerebellar white matter: a case report.

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Abstract

A 42-year-old woman with systemic lupus erythematosus developed an episode of tonic seizures and progressive disturbance of consciousness at the terminal stage. Neuropathological examination of the brain revealed a nearly symmetrical distribution of multiple spongy foci in the internal capsules, thalami, globus pallidus, mesencephalic tegmentum, cerebral peduncles and hilus of the dentate nuclei. The spongy lesions were obviously distributed along apparently intact medium-sized veins, and contained large numbers of macrophages, and axonal spheroids and a few reactive astrocytes, without inflammatory cell infiltration. In addition, the perivenous spongy lesions exhibited IgG immunoreactivity, so it is surmised that some neurotoxic factor(s) that exuded from the veins in the center of the perivenous lesions may have brought about such a unique pathology.

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