

A Patient Presenting With Acute Back Pain and Spastic Paraparesis: Case Report of Neuromyelitis Optica

Key words

Backache, Spastic paraparesis, Devic's disease, neuromyelitis optica, transverse myelitis

Abstract

Neuromyelitis optica (NMO, Devic's disease) is an inflammatory disease of the central nerves system which predominantly targeted spinal cord and optic nerves. This patient presented with acute onset backache and difficulty in walking. On examination she had spastic paraparesis with a sensory level at T8.

With the clinical picture, transverse myelitis was highly suspected. MRI scan of spinal cord confirmed the diagnosis of longitudinally extensive transverse myelitis. NMO (AQP4) antibody test was positive. There was no evidence of multiple sclerosis in MRI brain and cerebrospinal fluid assessment.

In this case report, the current diagnostic tendencies in investigating, evaluating and treating of NMO are discussed together with a Sri Lankan experience on how to approach and treat such a patient.