Vaccine Associated Paralytic Poliomyelitis

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Abstract

Vaccine polio virus can cause paralytic polio. We report a case of 5 months old male child who presented to us with fever and acute onset flaccid paralysis of right lower limb. Child had received oral polio vaccine 15 days prior to the onset of illness. Stool sample was positive for vaccine polio virus and negative for wild polio virus.

Case report: A 5 months old male child presented to us with history of fever and decreased movements of right lower limb since 1 day. There was no history of antecedent trauma or intramuscular injection received. He was a healthy child with milestones appropriate for age. Pulse polio immunization was received 15 days prior to onset of weakness. On examination, child was conscious and alert. All peripheral pulses were well felt and fundus examination normal. Neurological examination revealed hypotonia & absent reflexes in right lower limb. During ward stay, flaccid paralysis progressed to involve left upper limb and left lower limb over next 7 days. CSF examination was normal. EMG revealed widespread active axonal degeneration at anterior horn cell level. MRI brain was normal. MRI spine showed T2 hyperintense signals localized to anterior horn cells from C3 to C7 & D9 to conus suggestive of poliomyelitis. Stool samples were positive for vaccine polio virus and negative for wild polio virus. Mother’s HIV was negative. Immunodeficiency work up not possible due to financial constraints.