

Magnetic resonance findings in subacute combined degeneration

Achados na RM em degeneração combinada subaguda

Christiane Maria França Coimbra¹, Samara Oliveira Dias¹, Neysa Regattieri¹, Flávio Luz Garcia Pires¹

A 47-year-old man presented with paresthesia of the arms, disorientation and ataxia. Past medical history included alcoholism, and cholecystectomy one week prior (nitrous oxide was administered during anesthesia). Neuroimaging revealed bilateral symmetric high signal within the dorsal columns of the cervical cord, suggesting the diagnosis of subacute

combined degeneration. On cross-section images, this appearance has been described as the “inverted V sign” (Figure A, B). The laboratory test showed a low serum vitamin B12 level, confirming the diagnosis. Once the deficiency was corrected, the patient improved clinically and the spinal cord signal changes had subsided by the three-month follow-up (Figure C, D)^{1,2,3}.



Figure. Neuroimaging findings in subacute combined degeneration. Sagittal and axial MR spinal images on T2-weighted sequences demonstrate abnormal high signal within the dorsal columns of the cervical cord (A, B), and the complete resolution of signal abnormalities at a three-month follow-up (C, D).

References

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¹Hospital Universitário de Brasília, Unidade de Diagnóstico por Imagem, Brasília DF, Brasil.

Correspondence: Samara Oliveira Dias; Hospital Universitário de Brasília, Radiologia e Diagnóstico por Imagem; SGAN 605, Av. L2 Norte; 70840-90 Brasília DF, Brasil; E-mail: samaradias1@gmail.com

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