

Life threatening intracranial hemorrhages in malaria

Sir,

The article entitled “*Extradural hematoma in plasmodium vivax malaria; Are we alert to detect?*”, published in August 2013 online issue of our esteemed journal JNRP (Vol 4. issue 5, page 145-146), is an excellent documentation. In the same issue the commentary by S J Khan has further elaborated the condition. Here I would like to share my views which would further enlighten the condition.

- Malaria causes various hematological and hemorrhagic complications with thrombocytopenia, among which the ocular and the intracranial hemorrhagic complications are rare but are more so fatal compared to general bleeding complications
- If intracranial or subdural/extradural hematomas are not recognized and treated promptly with correction of associated hematological complications and evacuation of hematoma, it may be potentially fatal

- Vitreous hemorrhage may be an important cause of visual impairment in malaria patient besides cortical blindness and optic neuritis^[1]
- In India, in the malaria post-resurgent era, the complications are not likely to occur as early as it used to occur in early 1990’s outbreaks but, quite late after about an interval of a week or two, as it happened in this case, if the patient is not treated promptly in the initial stage. These complications are documented/observed in case of jaundice/hepatitis and renal failure as is the condition in the present case
- Thrombocytopenia is also a feature of severe malaria and most of the times decreased platelets counts are also associated with abnormal function. A correlation with severity of malaria with thrombocytopenia has also been described^[2,3]
- The view expressed in the commentary that plasmodium vivax malaria may not be benign malaria was argued by Picot in 2006^[4] is good but a landmark study in this subject was also documented by Kochar *et al.*, in the same year^[5]
- So there is a need of the hour to treat each and every patient of malaria at the onset of fever/first symptoms so as to avoid such complications.

Khichar Shubhakaran

Department of Neurology, Mahatma Gandhi Hospital,
Dr. S. N. Medical College, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India

Address for correspondence:

Dr. Khichar Shubhakaran,
House No. - 22/9, Umaid Hospital Campus, Jodhpur - 342 001,
Rajasthan, India.
Email: drkhicharsk@gmail.com

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