

**Abstract Form**

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<b>Project Title:</b>	Human Herpesvirus-6 Meningoencephalitis in an Immunocompetent Male

**Research Category (please check one):**

<input type="checkbox"/> Original Research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clinical Vignette	<input type="checkbox"/> Quality Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Education Innovation
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**Abstract**

Abstract

Meningoencephalitis with Human herpesvirus 6 (HHV-6) in adults is rare. It is known to occur as a result of reactivation of infected dormant brain cells during childhood, when host becomes immunocompromised in conditions such as organ or bone marrow transplantations. New primary infection in adults has also been described. Diagnosis is difficult and challenging particularly in immunocompetent adults due to low level of suspicious and undefined clinical, central spinal fluid (CSF) and neuroimaging findings. The duration and choice of antiviral also have not been well reported. We present a case of HHV-6 meningoencephalitis in an immunocompetent elderly male who presented with fever and altered mental status.

Methods

A single patient case report was conducted after IRB approval.

Case Presentation

Patient is a 79-year-old male with a history of dementia and diabetes mellitus who presented after being found down by a bystander. Patient arrived lethargic, tachypneic, and febrile to 39.4 °C. Physical exam was remarkable for rigid extremities with laboratory studies demonstrating a leukocyte count of  $14.6 \times 10^3$  cells/mm<sup>3</sup> without left shift and hyperglycemia to 550 mg/dL. He was empirically placed on antibiotics to cover bacterial etiologies plus acyclovir. CT of the head demonstrated moderate to severe global volume loss and periventricular leukomalacia. CSF showed WBC count of 17 with 76% monocytes and 22% lymphocytes. Extensive initial work up and all cultures came back negative. MRI brain with gadolinium found atrophic and chronic microangiopathic changes without enhancement. CSF Meningoencephalitis Panel (BioFire, BioMerieux, Salt Lake City, Utah) found HHV-6 positivity. HHV-6 serology testing found negative IgM and positive IgG. Serum HHV-6 PCR confirmed the diagnosis with > 2 million copies/mL. Patient was started on ganciclovir which resulted in significant improvement in symptoms. He was discharged to rehabilitation facility to complete a 30 day course of ganciclovir.

Conclusion

HHV-6 meningoencephalitis is a serious but rare condition particularly in otherwise immunocompetent adults. Clinicians should be aware of this infection when initial work up is not diagnostic.