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Fatal case of non-culturable Meningitis with Pulmonary Embolism

A 16 year old female presented to Emergency Department with complaint of a severe headache for 3 days, vomiting, and a low grade fever. She had previously been diagnosed 3 weeks earlier with Epstein - Barr virus and was currently taking oral prednisolone. The work up in the ED found an increase intracranial pressure up to 50cm H₂O with CSF WBC of 3661 with 96% PMN, very low glucose at < 5 mg/dl and high protein at 429 mg/dl which is compatible with bacterial meningitis. The chest x-ray showed suspicion of pulmonary emboli. Antibiotics initially given in the Emergency room were ceftriaxone and vancomycin. She was also intubated and put on respiratory support. Metronidazole was added on day 2 of admission.

The blood, urine, and CSF all showed no growth on culture and the meningo-encephalitis panel PCR was negative for usual bacterial viruses and fungal pathogens. A bacterial PCR collected from the bronchial lavage was sent out to find the actual causative agent. A subsequent CT scan with contrast of the neck found an internal jugular vein thrombosis. After six

days of admission, she developed severe brain swelling and herniated, no further intervention was done as requested by her mother and she expired on that day.

Speaker Biography

Pisespong Patamasucon, M.D. is the Director of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children. Previously the Director of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. He studied at the Chiang Mai University in Thailand before completing pediatric residencies at the Children's Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, and Georgetown University in Washington D.C. Following his Georgetown residency, he has completed a fellowship at the University of Texas South Western Medical School in Dallas. Prior to his roles at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, he was the Director of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Director of the International Health Program at the University of Tennessee Medical Center at Knoxville. While at the University of Tennessee, Dr. Patamasucon established and oversaw an exchange program between the university's medical program and schools and teaching hospitals in Thailand.

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