Dengue virus infection presenting with diffuse brain hemorrhage

Infecção pelo virus da dengue se apresentando com hemorragia cerebral difusa

Ricardo Tavares Daher¹, Victor Hugo Rocha Marussi¹, José Luiz Pedroso², Acary Souza Bulle Oliveira², Lázaro Luiz Faria do Amaral¹

A 40-year-old woman presented to the emergency department with acute decreased level of consciousness, associated with respiratory failure. She has complained of headache, fever, myalgia and dyspnea for the last seven days. Neurological examination disclosed decreased level of consciousness. Brain CT scan disclosed multiple intracerebral acute hemorrhage lesions (Figure). After extensive investigation, serologic test confirmed Dengue virus infection.

Brain involvement in dengue virus infection may have variable presentation, and encephalitis is the most common¹-³. However, although unusual, patients may present with cerebral hemorrhage, particularly in hemorrhagic dengue⁴,⁵. Pathophysiology may include: capillary hemorrhage, disseminated intravascular coagulation and cerebral edema⁴.

References


¹Med Imagem, Hospital Beneficência Portuguesa de São Paulo, Sao Paulo SP, Brazil;
²Departamento de Neurologia, Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Sao Paulo SP, Brazil.

Correspondence: Ricardo Tavares Daher, Hospital Beneficência Portuguesa de São Paulo; Rua Maestro Cardim, 968; 01323-001 São Paulo SP, Brasil; Email: ricardotdaher@hotmail.com

Conflict of interest: There is no conflict of interest to declare.

Received 13 May 2014; Received in final form 27 June 2014; Accepted 17 July 2014.