INTRODUCTION

Cryptococcosis is the most common fungal infection to strike the Central Nervous System. Its sub-acute manifestation includes fever, headache, nausea, and changes in behavior. Dysacusia takes place in up to 27% of patients, almost always bilaterally and suddenly. Reversibility is rare and was described by Mayer et al. in 1990. In general terms, if no treatment is offered death is the ultimate consequence.

CASE STUDY

AJGG, female, 29 years of age, arrived in our center on December 25, 2003 with intense headache, discomfort, nausea, diplia and reduced visual acuity; the symptoms had begun manifesting themselves two months before.

Her neck was stiff and the right abducens paretic. CBC came back normal and then quickly to blindness and bilateral hearing loss for clicks. It was not possible to collect duplicated responses at 130 dBnpl and thus waves I, III and V were not analyzed. Otoacoustic emissions were normal.

Treatment was initiated with intravenous Amphotericin B 50mg/day, getting to a dose of 1725 mg. The patient required a number of relief spinal taps and a ventriculo-peritoneal shunt.

After 100 days in the hospital the patient improved clinically and was discharged without headache and neck stiffness, with partially recovered auditory acuity (picture) and multiple negative LCR cultures for fungi.

DISCUSSION

Cryptococcal meningitis may occur at any given age and is more prevalent in immunologically compromised patients. Hypoacusia is described in as many as 27% of patients and may fluctuate (picture) and multiple negative LCR cultures for fungi.

Congenital malformations, with the presence of microorganisms in the vestibulocochlear nerve, internal auditory meatus and cochlear structures, have been seen destruction of cochlear and vestibular structures, with the presence of microorganisms in the vestibulocochlear nerve, internal auditory meatus and cochlear structures.

Harada et al. have seen most of these alterations, however with normal Corti's organ and preserved vestibular nerve in relation to the cochlear nerve. Therefore, despite the apparent disagreement as to the involvement of the cochlea, all authors concur that there is retrocochlear damage.

CONCLUSIONS

Cryptococcal meningitis is a severe infection and its clinical signs are of difficult diagnosis. Auditory involvement seems frequent, and its reversibility, rare. Early treatment is therefore of utmost importance, as is audiometric monitoring in the cases being followed.

REFERENCES