Trajectory of brain maturation and sex-specific cognitive abnormalities in early-onset psychosis


Zika virus infection followed by a first episode of psychosis: another flavivirus leading to pure psychiatric symptomatology

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Disclosure

The author reports no conflicts of interest.

References


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Zika virus (ZIKV), a flavivirus primarily transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, represents a major public health concern. ZIKV infection, previously considered a self-limited febrile exanthematic disease, leads to serious neurologic complications.\(^1\)

Microcephaly and extensive brain damage can result from congenital ZIKV infection. An association with Guillain-Barre Syndrome was suggested after the French Polynesia outbreak,\(^2\) and reports from endemic areas suggest that acute ZIKV infection leads to numerous central nervous system (CNS) complications. Considering the complexity of CNS function, we can expect a variety of clinical manifestations, even purely psychiatric symptoms.

A 17-year-old boy was transferred to our psychiatric emergency ward for evaluation of a first-episode psychosis (FEP). He had no significant health history or previous psychiatric history. Ten days prior to admission, he suddenly presented paranoid delusions and vivid auditory, somatic and olfactory hallucinations. He showed intense anxiety and panic-like symptoms, alternating with moments of inadequate behavioral disinhibition. Symptoms also included sleeplessness, increased speech production, vocal mannerisms and refusal to eat. A distinct period of altered mood was negated. Upon admission he was fully conscious with no attention deficits, disoriented...