

# Neurocysticercosis and HIV Infection

## Neurocisticercose e infecção pelo HIV

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Dear Editor,

We read the publication on “Neurocysticercosis (NCC) and HIV Infection: what can we learn from the published literature?” with great interest<sup>1</sup>. Herrera Vazquez et al. concluded that “*Our review did not reveal clear interactions between HIV and NCC. This may be partially due to the small number of cases and reliance on published research*”<sup>1</sup>. We would like to share ideas on this publication. First, Herrera Vazquez et al. mentioned that they reviewed the literature and could recruit only 40 cases of patients co-infected with NCC and HIV. In fact, the two conditions are not extremely uncommon in tropical countries and co-infection is

sporadically seen. In a recent report from Tanzania, among 170 local villagers with seropositive HIV, NCC was found in three patients<sup>2</sup>. In fact, there is another interesting publication from Brazil showing that “*Conditions related to the nervous system were the most commonly associated causes of death when NCC was mentioned as an underlying cause, and HIV/AIDS was the main underlying cause when NCC was an associated cause*”<sup>3</sup>. Regarding the clinical manifestation, asymptomatic NCC is not uncommon among HIV infected cases<sup>3</sup>. Some patients may have only subcutaneous parasitic cysts as the first presentation before further diagnosis of NCC<sup>4</sup>.

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