Correspondence

(The Editors do not hold themselves responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents)

Letter to the editor: Is there a clear role of imaging in the diagnosis of cerebral sparganosis at present?

The Editor,

I would like to thank the authors for the valuable discussion on the previous work [1] by Torres [2]. The provided data by Torres [2] is a very useful contribution to the knowledge on cerebral sparganosis. The data might support the clinical usefulness of neuroimaging. However, there is still a lack of complete data on the diagnostic value of the test (sensitivity, specificity, accuracy and predictive value). Most of the quoted studies described the neuroimaging characteristics of cerebral sparganosis without comparison to other neurological conditions [3–4]. In addition, most reports still indicate the requirement for clinical data and immunological investigation. The reported accuracy of 85.7% in specific well-trained radiologists might imply a higher false-negative rate in non-experienced radiologists [5]. In addition, it is important that the confirmation of the final diagnosis of cerebral sparganosis is the pathological identification of the worm [6]. Nevertheless, I agree with Torres's discussion [2] that "recent publications seem to illustrate the growing importance of imaging studies in the diagnosis of this rare disease".

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