

CASE REPORT

An Early Presentation of Neurosyphilis as Persistent Headache and Ophthalmoplegia

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Abstract:

Neurosyphilis can present with a wide spectrum of clinical symptoms and can lead to severe morbidity and mortality, in case of delayed diagnosis and treatment. Although it is often and inaccurately described as a type of tertiary syphilis, the involvement of the central nervous system (CNS) can begin early in the progression of the disease and CNS disorders may be primary presenting symptoms. We report a case of isolated third nerve palsy (TNP) and persistent headache secondary to neurosyphilis that demonstrates clearly the early involvement of CNS in the progression of the disease. The prompt detection of his condition led to a full recovery of the symptoms. Clinical awareness of this multi-factorial condition is very important, in order to suspect, recognize it and provide treatment before major complications.

Key words: Neurosyphilis, Ophthalmoplegia, Headache.