

Panda with “bright eyes”: a rare sign in Wilson disease

Panda con “ojos brillantes”: un signo raro en la enfermedad de Wilson

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A 22-year-old man with one-year history of progressive dysarthria, dysphagia, drooling, ataxic gait, and disinhibition. He reported history of acute hepatitis five months ago. Neurological examination revealed bilateral upper limb action tremor, parkinsonism, hyperreflexia, and clonus. Low serum ceruloplasmin levels (7.6 mg/dL, Normal: 20-40 mg/dL) and Kayser-Fleischer rings in the cornea were detected. Brain MRI showed abnormal bilateral hyperintensities (Figure 1) and panda with “bright eyes” (Figure 2).

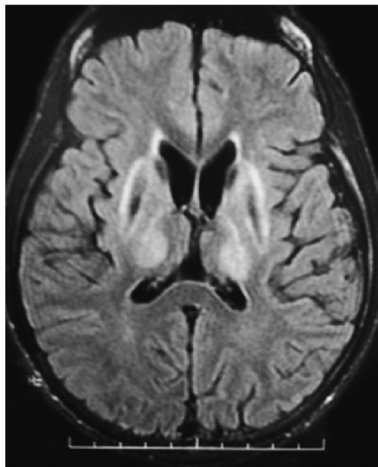
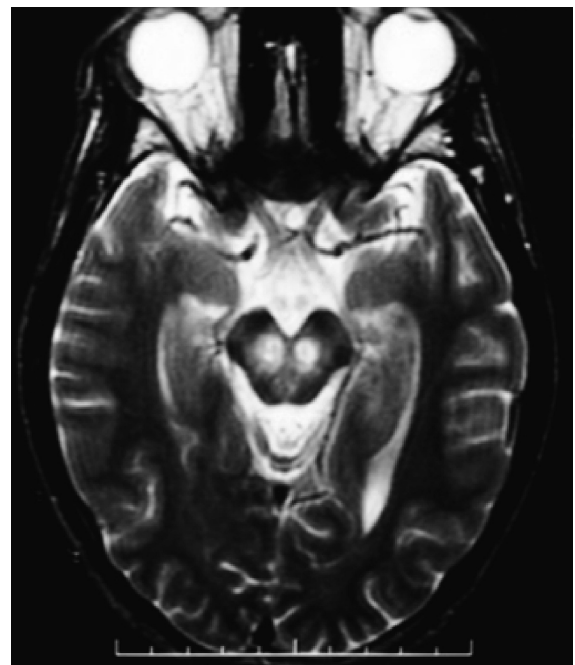


Figure 1. Axial FLAIR image demonstrates hyperintensities with central dark signal intensity in the putamen and caudate nuclei, and hyperintensities in thalami.



Panda with “bright eyes” is a rare variant of the neuroimaging sign called “face of the giant panda”, associated with Wilson disease^{1,2}. It is probably related to paramagnetic effects of copper and iron accumulation in the red nuclei.

Figure 2. The red nuclei appear bright in axial T2-weighted image with the appearance of panda with “bright eyes”.

References


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