

Peer Review File

Article information: <https://dx.doi.org/10.21037/jeccm-23-128>

Reviewer A Comments

1. “Snoring respirations” - please change the wording.

Reply: Line 38 changed from “snoring respirations” to “sonorous respirations”

2. Would change “aggression” to “violent behavior”.

Reply: Lines 9, 33, 130 and 144 reflect the change from “aggression” to “violent behavior” .

3. Would change THC to recreational cannabis use.

Reply: Line 58 changed from “THC” to “recreational cannabis use.” Line 64 and 105 reflect “THC” changed to “cannabinoids”

4. Remove or rewrite the following sentences: “Other hospital employees reported hearing the commotion well outside the walls of the emergency department. Nursing staff likened it to a demonic possession.”

Reply: Lines 124: These lines were removed.

5. “The degree of his mania and aggression” - what were his signs of mania? Either specify more or remove it.

Reply: Thank you to the reviewer, the patient did not meet technical requirements for the diagnosis of mania. Line 144 changed from “mania and aggression” to “violent behavior.”

Reviewer B Comments

What an interesting and well written report that will certainly add to our knowledge of the manifestations of cryptococcal meningitis in immunocompetent hosts.

A few minor revisions:

1. Please ensure acronyms are introduced before abbreviating (i.e. THC, UDS, CXR, CT).

Reply: The following lines were changed:

Line 11 “CSF” changed to “cerebral spinal fluid (CSF)”

Line 24 “AIDS” changed to “acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)”

Line 36 “EMS” changed to “emergency medical services (EMS)”
Line 48 “CT” changed to “computed tomography (CT)”
Line 52 “ED” changed to “emergency department (ED)”
Line 63 “UDS” changed to “urine drug screen (UDS)”
Line 63 “HIV” changed to “human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)”
Lines 63 and 111 “EtOH” changed to “ethanol”
Line 64 “CXR” changed to “chest x-ray (CXR)”
Line 66 “RBC” changed to “red blood cells”
Line 66 “WBC” changed to “white blood cells”
Line 69 “ICU” was changed to “intensive care unit (ICU)”
Line 103 “CMV” was changed to cytomegalovirus (CMV)”
Line 159 “VP” changed to ventriculoperitoneal”

2. Line 66. Please include mg / kg dose for Amphotericin B.

Reply: Line 69 was changed from “320mg” to “4mg/kg.” Line 135 Was changed from “(0.7-1 mg/kg/day)” to “(0.7-1 mg/kg/day, 3-4mg/kg/day of the liposomal formulation)” to reflect that the liposomal form was given to our patient, and to differentiate the liposomal dose from the non-liposomal formulation.

3. Line 133-134 - need to mention recommendation for steroids in cases of immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (IRIS).

Reply: The manuscript mentions that high dose steroids have been used in one case report to treat severe and refractory cryptococcal meningitis. Steroids are not routinely indicated. Line 139 was changed from “corticosteroid use.” to “corticosteroid use, although this is not routinely indicated.” I believe that a more detailed discussion of the initiation of retroviral therapies, their complications (IRIS) and the treatment of the IRIS (steroids) is beyond the scope of this article.

4. Did the patient have an MRI to look for any intracranial lesions? If so, please include these results.

Reply: Excellent observation. Line 70 was added “A non-contrast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the brain was done on hospital day three, which was normal.”