

CASE 10

Submitted by: Dr. Eleanor Roverud, Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia,
Philadelphia

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This 25 month old white female was well until age 15 months when she developed gastroenteritis in December 1959. On the second day of illness the child fell down while walking and had an episode of left horizontal nystagmus with the head turned to the left. She was conscious, had a fever of 102°F. All blood and spinal fluid studies were negative, including viral studies. She had been given compazine at home and in the hospital was treated with ACTH, cortisone, achromycin and phenobarbital. Within two weeks she developed ascending paralysis. Later she developed episodes of ballistic and choreiform movements, as well as tremors of the extremities. Later she had difficulty swallowing and suffered several episodes of aspiration pneumonitis. By July she had regained the use of her limbs and was able to roll over. The abnormal movements ceased. During August the extrapyramidal signs recurred with accompanying rigidity. She lost all voluntary movement except sucking, smiling and a weak grasp. In October 1960 the child became comatose, had left-sided Jacksonian seizures and a fever of 107°F. Again all viral studies were negative. She died the next day never having regained consciousness.

At autopsy the outstanding alteration of the brain was the decrease in size and discoloration of the putamen and to a lesser extent of the caudate nucleus and the globus pallidus. The liver was larger and heavier than normal and had a pale yellow, nongreasy cut surface. There was aspiration pneumonitis.