Case #1

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Reference: No. A-632-74

A sixty-two year old Puerto Rican male had a history of urinary tract infection and arterial hypertension. He lived somewhere in Pennsylvania but was born and raised in a Puerto Rican town surrounded by brooks. He developed low back pain and weakness in the lower extremities. He refused to have a myelogram and returned to Puerto Rico. Neurological exam revealed the complete loss of sensation at the T_8 level anteriorly and T_6 posteriorly including pain, touch, vibration and position. He became comatose and died four days after admission to the hospital.

Necroscopy revealed bilateral bronchopneumonia, multiple granulomas of liver and a cortical adenoma of the right kidney. The spinal cord at T_6 and below showed no differentiation between grey and white matter. The cut surface was soft, mottled and grey-red.

Microscopic Pathology: Hematoxylin-eosin stained section of the spinal cord.

Points for Discussion:

1. Diagnosis
2. Importance of history of brook bathing in Puerto Rico
3. Differential diagnosis of myelitis.