

CASE 1997-7

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Case reference number: HC327/94

Clinical History :

A 30-year-old Brazilian hemophiliac patient had received several transfusions of factor VIII cryoprecipitate. At the age of 28, he had positive serological tests for the HIV and was having AZT.

He presented with dizziness, generalized weakness, headache, fever (39° C), nausea and vomits, and had left hemiparesis.

A CT scan showed an extensive ill-defined right parietal hypodense lesion, with contrast enhancement, and edema of the adjacent tissue.

Treatment for toxoplasmosis was introduced, but he developed convulsions, did not respond to stimuli and died in coma 20 days after admission to hospital.

During this period, serological tests showed that he was infected with the *Trypanosoma cruzi* (the agent of Chagas' disease).

Necropsy findings:

There was an extensive ill defined necrotizing and hemorrhagic lesion in the right parieto-occipital lobes, involving both cortex and white matter. The other organs were macroscopically normal.

Material submitted: H&E section of the cerebrum

Points for discussion: 1. Diagnosis
2. Pathogenesis