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A case of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis which was diagnosed with progressive *dysphagia* and muscle atrophyTadashi Komata, Yoko Sakimura, Keiko Tanka, Toru Imamura, Nao Sanada, Seiko Ishikawa, Tatsuya Kikuchi, Ryo Yamazaki and Tatsuya Sato
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A 79-year-old man presented to our out-patient clinic with symptoms of dysphagia, dysarthria, and muscle atrophy of the trunk and upper extremities. These symptoms were gradually progressive, and he had lost substantial weight-20 kg in 2 years. One month later, he was admitted due to dehydration, and received tube feeding. The presence of “split hand” suggested amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Finally, the patient was diagnosed with ALS by two neurologists. When elderly patients present with progressive dysphagia and muscle atrophy, especially with “split hands,” ALS should be included as a differential diagnosis.

**Recent Publications**

1. Nashimoto T, Komata T, Kanzawa T, Aoki H, Endo S, Kon T, Uzuka T, Takahashi H, Kondo S, Tanaka R (2006) Mild hyperthermia plus adenoviral p53 over-expression additively inhibits the viability of human malignant glioma cells. *Int J Hyperthermia*. 21(7):615-29.
2. Komata T, Kanzawa T, Nashimoto T, Aoki H, Endo S, Kon T, Takahashi H, Kondo S and Tanaka R (2005) Histone deacetylase inhibitors, N-butyric acid and trichostatin A, induce caspase-8- but not caspase-9-dependent apoptosis in human malignant glioma cells. *Int J Oncol*. 26(5):1345-52.
3. Komata T, Kanzawa T, Nashimoto T, Aoki H, Endo S, Nameta M, Takahashi H, Yamamoto T, Kondo S and Tanaka R (2004) Mild heat shock induces autophagic growth arrest, but not apoptosis in U251-MG and U87-MG human malignant glioma cells. *J Neurooncol*. 68(2):101-11.
4. Komata T, Cruikshank W W and Kelso A (2003) Sustained linked stimulation via CD3 and CD4 is required for the IL-4-independent development of IL-4 synthesizing CD4+ T cells. *Immunol Cell Biol*. 81(4):283-8.
5. Yao K C, Komata T, Kondo Y, Kanzawa T, Kondo S and Germano I M (2003) Molecular response of human glioblastoma multiforme cells to ionizing radiation: cell cycle arrest, modulation of the expression of cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitors, and autophagy. *J Neurosurg*. 98(2):378-84.

Biography

Tadashi Komata is a medical doctor in Rehabilitation and Neurosurgery. Currently, he is working in Niigata Rehabilitation Hospital, Niigata, Japan. During 20 years as a Neurosurgical Specialist, he also devoted himself on the research of immunotherapy and gene therapy for malignant glioma patients. He now focuses on rehabilitation for patient with sequelae after stroke, head injury, or spinal cord injury. He is now especially interested in evaluation of dysphagia and treatment of spasticity using botulinum toxin.

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