



The objectives of this study were to assess the approach and management of suspected encephalitis cases in Omdurman Teaching Hospital

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Abstract

Methods: This study was a descriptive cross-sectional study over 6 months (May to October 2019). The study included 84 patients with suspected encephalitis, selected by convenience sampling. A standardised questionnaire was used to interview patients and the collected data was analysed by SPSS version 27.0.

Results: The most common presenting symptoms among the study participants were fever and headache (100%), seizures (36.9%) and agitation (28.6%). Neurological examinations showed hemiparesis in 13.1% of patients. Complete blood counts showed lymphocyte predominance in all patients, while MRI showed temporal hyperintense lesions in 63.2% of patients. 65.5% of patients made a full recovery, whereas 26.2% of cases culminated in motor deficit.

Conclusion: The patients' outcome was poor as below two-thirds of suspected encephalitis cases recovered fully. The NICE criteria for diagnosis had not been adequately followed, as only a minority of patients had undergone CSF and MRI investigations.

Recommendations: Greater adherence to NICE diagnostic criteria must be observed. Documentation of specific reasons is also necessary if neurological imaging is not used. The exact aetiology must be identified and targeted antimicrobial treatment must be initiated. If CSF results cannot be obtained in cases of suspected encephalitis, rapid administration of intravenous acyclovir should be included as part of empirical antimicrobial therapy.