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Pediatric optic neuritis in rural area of Taiwan

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Pediatric optic neuritis characteristically presents with significant visual loss, which is easily misdiagnosed with malingering especially in under-served medical area of Taiwan. Recurrent optic neuritis episodes could be a red flag sign of underlined multiple sclerosis and could result in other severe complications. This is a cross-sectional community-based study, 3918 children participated in the program of Health Promotion for Children in Chia Yi with their informed content during the year of 2015. Six children were diagnosed with pediatric optic neuritis. Careful medical history and drug history were evaluated. Visual acuity, intraocular pressure (IOP), color test, optical coherence tomography (OCT), visual evoke potential (VEP) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) were used for diagnosis. Autoimmune survey with serum level of Complement 3 (C3), complement C4 (C4), anti-nuclear antibody (ANA), Anti-ENA, Anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA), and Anti-Aquaporin 4 (AQP4) antibody were also done. The incidence of pediatric optic neuritis is different from the data of western countries. The relationship between the influenza vaccine and optic neuritis in children needs further evaluations. Children who claim vision loss or headache with unknown causes should receive further management and treatment. Careful history taking is as important as the color test, visual acuity and visual evoked potential examination to diagnose the optic neuritis and prevent further complications.

Biography

Li-Ju Lai has completed her PhD from Chang Gung University in Taiwan and Post-doctoral studies from University of Pittsburgh in USA. She is the Director of Health Promotion for Children Program in Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Chia-Yi branch, Taiwan. She has published more than 26 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an Editorial Board Member of repute.

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