

Autopsy Case with Lymphocytic Infundibuloneurohypophysitis as the Contributing Factor

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Abstract

Background: Hypophysitis is a rare, chronic inflammatory disease of the pituitary gland that can lead to pituitary dysfunction. We describe a difficult-to-diagnose case of lymphocytic hypophysitis that contributed to death.

Case Report: The deceased was a 70-year-old woman who was by her husband escorted to the toilet because she was unsteady on her feet. Being slumped on the toilet seat and unable to move, she was assisted by her husband who tried but failed to move her. He provided her with water but she died 3 days thereafter. At autopsy, the deceased measured 162 cm and weighed 46.4 kg. The bladder bulged hugely and contained 1450 cc of brown urine. CD20+ and CD3+ lymphocytes infiltrated the posterior lobe of the pituitary gland and severe inflammation, erosion, and fibrin

deposition were observed in the bladder mucosa. Biochemical examination disclosed acute renal failure.

Conclusion: Acute renal failure was the direct cause of death. Flaccid neurogenic bladder can cause acute renal failure as a postrenal factor. Lymphocytic infundibuloneurohypophysitis can contribute to flaccid neurogenic bladder. Great awareness of pituitary diseases by forensic pathologists is emphasized.

Keywords: lymphocytic hypophysitis, acute renal failure, neurogenic bladder