P-65 Isolated ACTH deficiency Presenting Fatigue, Anorexia, Weight loss, and Hyponatremia

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Introduction

Isolated adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) deficiency (IAD) is a disorder characterized by low plasma ACTH levels resulting in secondary adrenal insufficiency. Despite the condition can be life threatening if not treated properly, diagnosis is challenging for its unspecific symptoms. We report a case of IAD, and discuss the clinical differences between primary and secondary adrenal insufficiency.

Case Presentation

A 73-year-old man who retired from a tile craftsman 8 years ago had experienced fatigue for the past 9 months, gradually lost appetite, lost weight, and found it difficult to wake up and walk 3 days before the presentation. He went to a local clinic, his serum natrium level was 125 mEq/L, so he was referred to our hospital. On the presentation, his height was 162 cm, body weight was 44 kg, temperature was 36.2°C, blood pressure was 96/58 mmHg, pulse late was 66 bpm. Physical examination was unremarkable. ECG, CXR, dynamic CT were unremarkable. Laboratory study showed normal CBC, renal function, hepatic function, and CRP. Serum natrium level was 121 mEq/L, blood glucose was 71 mg/dL, and so we suspected adrenal insufficiency. ACTH was 14.8 pg/mL, cortisol was 0.2 μ g/dL. Head MRI revealed an atrophy of the pituitary gland. CRH, GRH, TRH, LHRH stimulation test was performed, which revealed no ACTH and cortisol stimulation. We performed ACTH stimulation test, and cortisol was stimulated. The diagnosis was Isolated ACTH deficiency. He was treated with hydrocortisone, discharged from the hospital 25 days after the presentation.

Discussion

IAD is a major cause of secondary adrenal insufficiency, which includes weakness, fatigue, anorexia, weight loss, and psychiatric disorders. Hypoglycemia and hyponatremia are common. It can be distinguished from primary adrenal insufficiency by the absence of hyperpigmentation, dehydration, gastrointestinal symptoms, and hyperkalemia.