

E-Pearl of the Week

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Patrikios disease: a pseudopolyneuritic variant of ALS

A rare variant of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) was first described by Patrikios and Marie in 1918. It is now thought to account for about 5% of cases of ALS. This clinical variant is characterized by an initial presentation with footdrop and weakness of the anterior compartment muscles of the lower leg, mimicking a peripheral neuropathy. Symptoms or signs of upper limb and bulbar involvement are minimal or absent, though they invariably appear at later stages of the disease. In the early stages of this variant syndrome, it is difficult to distinguish from other disorders, such as multifocal motor neuropathy, distal spinal muscular atrophy and lumbosacral radiculopathy.

Reference

Cappellari A, Ciammola A, Silani V. The pseudopolyneuritic form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Patrikios' disease). *Electromyogr Clin Neurophysiol*. 2008;48(2):75-81.

O'Reilly DF, Brazis PW, Rubino, FA. The misdiagnosis of unilateral presentations of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. *Muscle & Nerve*. 1982;5:724-726.

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