Images in Clinical Tropical Medicine

Unusually Thickened Ulnar Nerve and Lagophthalmos in Leprosy

Ravindra Kumar Garg*

Department of Neurology, Chhatrapati Shahaji Maharaj Medical University, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, India

CASE SUMMARY

Leprosy is a common cause of neuropathy. Thickened peripheral nerves are one of the cardinal features. Ulnar and common peroneal nerves are the most frequent thickened nerves.\(^1\) Figure 1 shows a visibly thickened ulnar nerve in a 22-year-old man presenting with mononeuritis multiplex along with hypopigmented and hypoesthetic skin lesions. Borderline leprosy has a high propensity to involve nerve trunks resulting in mononeuritis multiplex. Figure 2 shows lagophthalmos in a 45-year-old patient of lepromatous leprosy. Lagophthalmos is the inability to close the eye because of paralysis of the upper eyelid. Involvement of zygomatic and temporal branches of facial nerve result in lagophthalmos.\(^2\)

Received October 19, 2009. Accepted for publication January 5, 2009.

Disclosure: The journal has permission from the patient shown in Figure 2 to publish his photograph. Ravindra Kumar Garg reports no financial disclosures.

Author’s address: Ravindra Kumar Garg, Department of Neurology, Chhatrapati Shahaji Maharaj Medical University, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, India, E-mail: garg50@yahoo.com.

REFERENCES


*Address correspondence to Ravindra Kumar Garg, Department of Neurology, Chhatrapati Shahaji Maharaj Medical University, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, India. E-mail: garg50@yahoo.com