

Patient #091

Chief Complaint: This 67 year old black male presented with weakness of the arms and legs for 24 hours.

History of Present Illness: He was in his usual state of good health until the day prior to admission, when he noted weakness and stiffness of his arms and legs. When he awoke the day of admission, he found he could not sit up or move his arms or legs. He denied headache, visual disturbances, difficulty swallowing, pain in his extremities, or difficulty urinating. He denied any recent viral illnesses or immunizations. No family members or friends had similar complaints.

Past Medical History: no prior illnesses or hospitalizations.

Medications/Allergies: none

Family History: noncontributory.

Social History: He is married and lives with his wife. He denied use of tobacco, alcohol, or illicit drugs.

Physical Examination: Well developed, well nourished black male in no acute distress. BP 140/90; pulse 60; respirations 16; temperature 98.4°F (36.9°C).

The head was normocephalic and atraumatic. The conjunctivae were pink. The sclerae were anicteric. The pupils were equal, round, and reactive to light and accommodation. The oropharynx was benign. The neck was supple. There was no lymphadenopathy or thyromegaly. The lungs were clear. Cardiac examination revealed normal heart sounds, without gallops or murmurs. The abdomen was soft, with normoactive bowel sounds. There was no tenderness, hepatosplenomegaly, or masses. The extremities showed no cyanosis, clubbing, or edema; peripheral pulses were normal. Neurologic examination revealed that he was alert and oriented to person, place, and time. Cranial nerves II through XII were intact. Motor examination revealed 0/5 - 1/5 symmetrical weakness in both upper and lower extremities. Sensory examination revealed normal pinprick, vibration, and proprioception in all extremities. Deep tendon reflexes were absent.

Laboratory Data:

			<i>Normal</i>
CBC	Hgb	11.6	<i>14.0-18.0 g/dl.</i>
	Hct	34.8	<i>42-52%</i>
	MCV	93	<i>84-99 fl</i>
	WBC	8.4	<i>4.8-10.8 X 10⁹/L</i>
	differential	normal	

Chemistries	chemistries	within normal limits	
	glucose	76	<i>70-110 mg/dl</i>

CT brain scan: normal

Lumbar puncture: normal opening pressure and clear, colorless cerebrospinal fluid, with protein of 191, glucose 76. 80 RBCs and 0 WBCs. Gram stain, counterimmunoelectrophoresis, and cultures were negative. CSF IgG 28.9 (normal 0.5-6.1); no oligoclonal bands were detected.

Heavy metal screen: negative.