

# PROGRESSIVE MULTIFOCAL LEUKOENCEPHALOPATHY (PML)

## Clinical presentation

- Cognitive impairment (confusion or disorientation), motor weakness or poor coordination, speech problems and/vision changes.<sup>(1)</sup>
- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the brain shows multiple subcortical areas of demyelination without edema or gadolinium enhancement.
- Hemiparesis is the most common finding.<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

## Diagnosis

- Combination of clinical picture with the MRI + Demonstration of JC virus infection in the brain (either by brain biopsy or quantitative PCR of JC in the cerebrospinal fluid).
- Brain biopsy may be required because sensitivity to PCR may be as low as 75%.<sup>(2)(3)(4)</sup>

## Management

- There is no satisfactory treatment for PML, which is almost universally fatal in a few months.<sup>(5)</sup>
- Rituximab must be **discontinued permanently** in patients with PML.<sup>(5)(6)</sup>
- Consider dose reduction or discontinuation of concomitant chemotherapy.
- Treatment of PML is mainly supportive.<sup>(7)</sup>

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