

Abstract

Introduction: Posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome is a clinicoradiologic entity characterized by headache, seizures, decreased vision, impaired consciousness and white matter oedema in bilateral occipitoparietal regions. Hypertensive encephalopathy, eclampsia, immunosuppressive/cytotoxic drugs, organ transplantation, renal disease, autoimmune diseases and vasculitides are reported risk factors of posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome. Reports of cyclophosphamide-induced posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome are rare and occurred in a background of renal failure, fluid overload or active connective tissue disease.

Case presentation: We report a case of posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome developing as a direct consequence of intravenous cyclophosphamide therapy in a 33-year-old normotensive Sri Lankan woman with lupus nephritis but quiescent disease activity and normal renal function.

Conclusions: This case report highlights the need for awareness and early recognition of this rare but serious adverse effect of cyclophosphamide that occurred in the absence of other known risk factors of posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome and that early appropriate intervention leads to a good outcome.