

Nocardial cerebral miliary due to massive inoculation

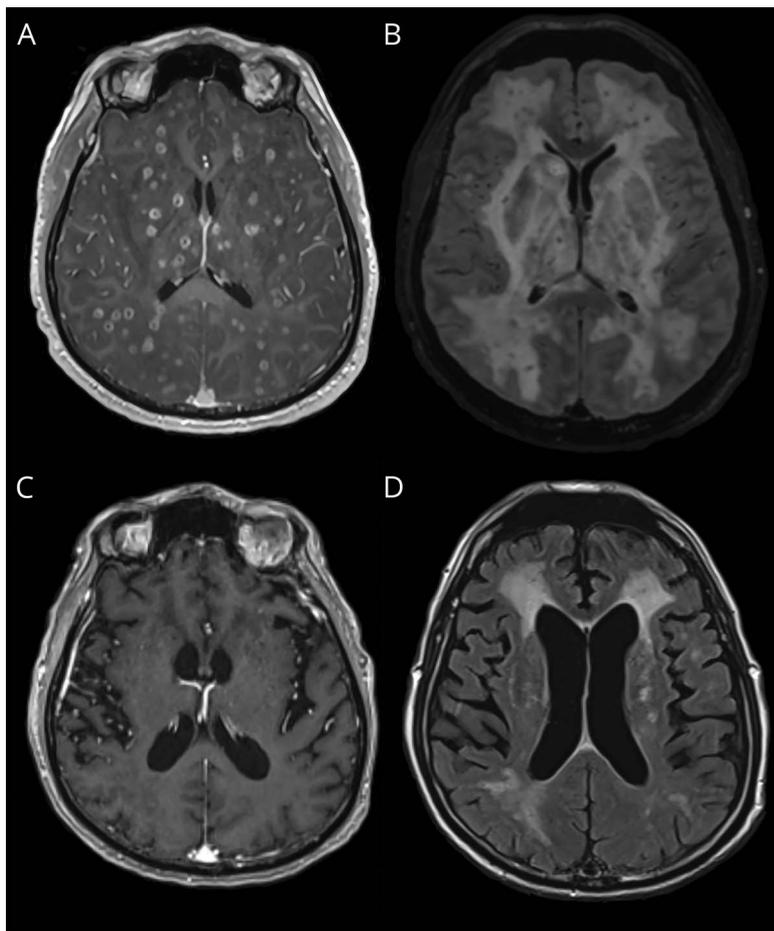
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Figure Initial and follow-up brain MRI



Brain MRI reveals innumerable lesions in axial gadolinium-enhanced T1 (A) associated with extensive edema on coronal fluid-attenuated inversion recovery (B). (C, D) Favorable follow-up at 6 months, with almost complete regression of all lesions and resolution of the edema.

A 68-year-old immunocompetent farmer had persistent pneumonia after scrubbing an antique water tank. He was referred in a febrile coma with supple neck. Brain MRI (figure) showed innumerable enhancing lesions with severe edema. CSF was moderately inflammatory (23 white cells/mL, proteins 1.2 mg/mL, normal glucose) but excluded bacterial meningitis. Bronchoalveolar lavage and blood cultures were negative.

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An open brain biopsy revealed abscesses of *Nocardia asteroides*, a ubiquitous Gram-positive soil pathogen. Treatment consisted of glucocorticoids and complex antibiotics regimen for 6 months. The patient eventually recovered completely. Nocardiosis is rare in immunocompetent patients, and cerebral miliary is an exceptional presentation.¹

Study finding

No targeted funding reported.

Disclosure

The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org/N for full disclosures.

Appendix Authors

Name	Location	Contribution
Arnaud Lazard, MD	Grenoble University Hospital	Original idea, drafted the manuscript
François Lechanoine, MD	Grenoble University Hospital	Revised the manuscript
Emmanuel De Schlichting, MD	Grenoble University Hospital	Edited the figure, reviewed the manuscript

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