

5. **Ian Reinhorn**, Michael Stein

McGill University, Montreal, QC.

A case of relapsing polychondritis associated meningoencephalitis.

Relapsing polychondritis is a rare autoimmune disease characterized by inflammation in cartilage and proteoglycan-rich structures, with an estimated incidence of 3.5 per million. Neurologic manifestations, either peripheral or central, are estimated to occur in 3% of patients with relapsing polychondritis. Central nervous manifestations include cranial nerve palsies, encephalitis, seizures, multifocal areas of cerebral inflammation, myelitis, parkinsonism, dementia and aseptic meningitis. In this report, a patient with relapsing polychondritis associated meningoencephalitis is described and a review of the literature is summarized.

A case report of a 61-year-old woman with a new diagnosis of relapsing polychondritis complicated by meningoencephalitis is described. A review of the literature is performed using the MeSH terms "relapsing polychondritis" and "meningoencephalitis". Relevant case reports over the past fifteen years were identified and summarized.

Twenty-eight patients with relapsing polychondritis associated meningoencephalitis were identified and pertinent clinical information was noted. From this review of the literature, risk factors for the development of meningoencephalitis were summarized. These include male sex and auricular chondritis. Many patients did not have a pre-existing diagnosis of relapsing polychondritis prior to the onset of neurologic symptoms. The cerebrospinal fluid of many patients with relapsing polychondritis associated meningoencephalitis showed pleocytosis with mononuclear cell predominance with elevated protein.

Meningoencephalitis is a rare but significant complication of relapsing polychondritis. A greater understanding of relapsing polychondritis and its neurologic complications is important for timely diagnosis and treatment of this condition. In particular, identification of erythematous or deformed ears is crucial.