Lemierre syndrome
More than “the forgotten disease”

A 54-year-old woman presented with fever, spasmodic torticollis, ptosis, and chemosis in her left eye. CT venous angiography revealed cavernous sinus thrombosis (CST) and left internal jugular vein thrombosis (IJVT) (figure, A), cervical MRI detected a retropharyngeal abscess and epidural empyema with intense dural enhancement. Chest x-ray showed multiple basal pulmonary opacities (figure, D). The clinical/radiologic picture, due to anaerobic septicemia, was consistent with Lemierre syndrome (LS), the so-called “forgotten disease.”

Extensive neuroimaging studies are mandatory to detect an abscess in the neck of patients with CST and IJVT for early diagnosis and treatment. LS is still relevant today.

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interpretation of data, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval, acquisition of data. Emanuele Micheletti: analysis or interpretation of data, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval. Donata Guidetti: drafting/revising the manuscript, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval.

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