MRI and encephalography in fatal eastern equine encephalitis

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) is the most severe of the mosquito-borne encephalitides, with a case fatality rate estimated at 36%.¹ We describe 2 fatal cases of seropositive EEE in men. In both patients, EEG monitoring revealed periodic 0.25- to 0.5-Hz transients with lower voltages (20–40 mV) than typically seen in herpes encephalitis (100–500 mV), and MRI revealed a symmetric pattern of T2 hyperintensity in the lentiform nuclei, as previously noted¹² (figure). Considered together, these MRI and EEG findings suggest a distinctive pattern that may be pathognomonic for EEE in the appropriate clinical context.

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