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Cysticercosis of temporalis muscle: an unusual cause of temporal headaches. A case report

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Abstract Cysticercosis is a common parasitic infection caused by encysted larvae of the helminth *Taenia solium* (pork tapeworm). The central nervous system (CNS) is the most important primary site of infection and the disease can present with solitary or multiple space occupying lesions. Less common presentations in the CNS include the racemose variety with macroscopic groups of cysticerci in the subarachnoid space giving the appearance of a cluster of grapes and basal or ventricular cysticercosis causing obstructive hydrocephalus. Involvement of other organs: skeletal muscle, eyes, myocardium and the lungs has also been reported. Cases of cysticercosis presenting as isolated muscle mass (pseudotumours) without involvement of the CNS have also been recently described in the literature. We present a case of a 43-year-old woman who complained of subacute onset of left

temporal pain and headache. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed characteristic imaging findings suggestive of cysticercosis of the temporalis muscle.

Keywords Temporal headaches • Cysticercosis • Giant cell arteritis • Temporal arteritis

Case report

A 43-year-old woman presented to the out-patient neurology department for evaluation of left temporal pain and headache of 3 weeks' duration. She reported feeling a lump in the left

temporal area for the past week. There were no complaints of blurring of vision or jaw claudication and she denied any myalgias. Examination of the patient revealed tenderness around the left temple with visible swelling. Neurological examination was normal with no motor or sensory deficits. Fundoscopic examination revealed a normal optic disc. The

