A VEGETARIAN WITH NEUROCYSTICERCOSIS

To the Editor:

Thank you for the excellent case report on neurocysticercosis published in the January 2005 issue of Hospital Physician.1 I wish to add a description of a case of neurocysticercosis that took place in India. A 20-year-old woman developed unusual movements of her left arm associated with intermittent headaches. The patient was a vegetarian who had never eaten pork. She was evaluated by a neurologist, and a computed tomographic (CT) scan of her head revealed a ring-enhancing lesion in the right parietal lobe with minimal edema surrounding it. Results of serologic testing of her spinal fluid were negative. She was treated with albendazole, and on serial follow-up CT scans, her lesion decreased in size and nearly disappeared.

The point I am making is that it is important to keep the diagnosis of neurocysticercosis in mind, even in vegetarians, and especially in children from developing countries where sanitation may be inadequate.

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Reference