ABSTRACT

Background: Neurocysticercosis (NCC) is the most common parasitic disease of the central nervous system. On the basis of an incorrect assumption that human NCC does not occur in countries in which law prohibit swine breeding and consumption of pork, the disease has been considered rare in Arab world.

Materials and methods: A retrospective study carried out in Emergency Department, Alkhor hospital, HMC from April 2014 to May 2015 (14170/14). All patients above age of 18 yrs diagnosed to have neurocysticercosis from August 2005 to December 2013 were included. Data were retrieved from medical record department and electronic data base. This included baseline demography, clinical presentation and radiological findings.

Results: Out of a total of 137 subjects enrolled 9 were excluded. All the 128 subjects were male. Majority of the subjects was in the age group 21–30 yrs (n = 86). Majority were from Nepal 76 (58.1%). 30 (20.3%) patients gave history of previous episodes of seizure, however only 8 of them were on antiepileptic medication. 107 patients presented to A&E with seizures (83.5%). Among which GTCS was the most common form 85%. Use of tobacco was seen in 20 subjects (13.6%) and alcohol in 10 (6.8%). Radiological examination, CT scan revealed solitary lesion in 84 (65.5%) subjects and majority were calcified. 114 patients were admitted to the hospital out of which 5 required ICU care. Anti-epileptic medication was initiated in all patients except 10 patients. Reason could not be identified. Except 13 patients all other patients received short course of oral steroids.

Conclusion: 1) Majority of the patients are young males from Asian countries, 2) GTCS is the most common mode of presentation, 3) Solitary lesion is the most common radiological finding. The increased ease of international travel and increasing number of immigration from developing countries have led to widespread recognition of NCC developed countries.