

Extra-cephalic manifestations during Horton's disease

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INTRODUCTION:

- Horton's disease (HM), is the most common systemic vasculitis affecting large and medium-sized arteries.
- The aim of this work was to study extra-cephalic manifestations during Horton's disease.

PATIENTS AND METHODS:

- This is a retrospective study of 17 cases of HD in an Internal Medicine Department.
- The diagnosis of HD was retained according to the criteria of ACR 1990.

RESULTS:

- We collected over a period of 19 years, [2000 - 2019], 17 patients with HD.
- Average age = 72 years [53 - 92].
- 13 women (76.4%) and 4 men (23.6%).
- Extra cephalic involvements were noted in all cases (n = 17) and were revealing in 14 cases.
- 15 patients (88.23%) had general signs (asthenia n=14, anorexia n= 14 weight loss n= 13).
- 12 patients (70.58%) had joint involvement including 9 cases (52.94%) of pseudo rhizomelic arthritis and 3 cases of polyarthritis.
- A gastrointestinal involvement with abdominal pain was reported in two patients (11.7%).

- Coronary involvement was seen in one case with a significant stenosis of the circumflex artery.
- Psychiatric involvement was noted in only one case (5.88%) type mood disorder.
- Biological manifestations are mentioned in table 1

Table 1: Biological manifestations

Biological manifestations	Number of cases
Accelerated sedimentation rate	12
Increased C-reactive protein	10
Increased fibrinogen	7
Hyper alphaglobulinemia	3

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION:

- Extracranial involvement has probably been underestimated and its incidence may be more frequent than suspected.
- Systematic evaluation of patients with imaging techniques such positron emission tomography (PET) may reveal that the clinical impact of extracranial involvement by HD may be more relevant than previously thought. [1]
- In conclusion, the clinical picture of HD is polymorphic. General signs and joint damage are the most frequent extra-cephalic clinical manifestations.