



Analysis of age of onset, pre-existing infections, and features of magnetic resonance imaging results in patients with acute myelitis

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ABSTRACT. The clinical features and potential risk factors of acute myelitis (AM) were investigated. The medical records of patients with AM admitted to our department between January 2004 and December 2011 were collected and retrospectively analyzed. The diagnosis of AM was in line with the diagnostic criteria of the Transverse Myelitis Consortium Working Group. The age of onset, clinical, and imaging features of these patients were analyzed. A total of 64 patients satisfying the inclusion criteria were enrolled in the study, including 39 males and 25 females. The patients ranged in age from 1 to 80 years, with a mean age of 34 years. Twenty-three patients had symptoms of pre-existing infections. The correlation between spinal cord lesions and spinal lesions was statistically significant ($P < 0.05$). Cervical spinal cord inflammation was the most common. Prodromal infections were more commonly observed in thoracic spinal cord myelitis than in cervical spinal cord myelitis ($P < 0.05$). AM appears to be more likely to occur in male minors. Lesions of the spinal column were partially implicated with the occurrence of myelitis, which suggests that such lesions might be a predisposing factor. Compared to AM of the cervical

cord, pre-existing infections appear to be of greater significance for the occurrence of myelitis of the thoracic cord.

Key words: Acute myelitis; Age of onset; Pre-existing infections; MRI