

# PRIMARY INFLUENZA ENCEPHALITIS DURING EPIDEMIC SEASON. CLINICAL AND THERAPEUTIC ASPECTS. SERIES OF CASES

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Postinfectious influenza encephalitis is described as a rare complication; primary influenza encephalitis is considered exceptional. We present a series of 4 cases of primary influenza encephalitis hospitalized in the Clinic of Infectious Diseases Cluj-Napoca during the influenza epidemic season (December 1994-March 1995) and a review of literature. In 3 cases, a mild respiratory illness was described 2-6 days before the onset of neurological manifestations. In one case the onset of encephalitis was abrupt in full healthy state. The clinical observation included neurological exams. Influenza etiology (H3N2 - 3 cases, H1N1 - 1 case) was established by laboratory findings (haemagglutinin inhibant antibodies in rising titres or at very high titre). The sudden onset, the severity of neurological manifestations were not correlated with fast recovery under nonspecific therapy (steroids and depletion) in 2 cases; relatively slow favourable in one case. One case had a fatal course because of severe bacterial pulmonary complication and choc. The 4 cases demonstrate an unusual manifestation of influenza infection which, in epidemic season seems to be not so rare as was described, even in the absence of a characteristic clinical picture for influenza.