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The detection of post-malaria neurological syndrome: A literature review

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Background: The vast population living in eastern part of Indonesia is still considered living in malaria-endemic areas, yet, despite the aforementioned, Post Malaria Neurological Syndrome (PMNS), one of neurological disorders associated with its incidence, is still rarely reported. This illness is characterized by either by the occurrence of transient neurological or psychiatric symptoms within two months of acute phase after patient has regained consciousness; or microscopically post-parasitic clearance from peripheral blood.

Objective: It is deemed important to create an evident as a basis of consideration for guideline, especially within the area of detection and intervention, considering that cultural barriers would impede such. Hence, this literature review is undertaken based on the rationale, specifically to describe any clinical and laboratory findings in PMNS detection.

Method: Literature search were undertaken using PubMed, Lancet, Science Direct and Google Search engine from database inception until March 2018. We included studies that investigate the clinical and laboratory findings in PMNS detection.

Result: There was discrepancy in PMNS clinical and laboratory findings. All peripheral blood smears are negatives for malaria parasites, but routine blood count, cerebrospinal fluid, CT-Scan and EEG are varied. Recently, there is a report indicating neurexin-3a antibodies in PMNS patient.

Conclusion: There were limited literatures about PMNS and currently, no gold standard for detection has been discovered yet. Patients' record indicating history of malarial treatment and indication of either neurological or psychiatric symptoms are still keys for case detection.

Biography

Ignatia Ratna has completed her medical doctor study at the age of 24 years from Padjadjaran University. She has written more than 2 articles in local health magazine, contributed in paper which is published at reputed journal, and participated in local posters. Currently working in Emergency department of Regional Public Hospital and pursuing research in neurology.

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