

PERSISTENT ONCONEURAL ANTI-HU ANTIBODY POSITIVITY WITH NEUROLOGICAL SYMPTOMATOLOGY WITHOUT TUMOUR DETECTION

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Objectives: To report a case of long – term course (15 years) of anti-Hu positive patient with brainstem encephalitis/cerebellar degeneration without tumour in spite of anti-Hu onconeural antibodies are considered as well- defined onconeural antibodies reflecting presence of tumour

Methods: Indirect immunohistochemistry, Immunoblot - Ravo Diagnostics, MRI, CT, PET, ultrasound

Case description: The patient presented at age of 48 years with nystagmus, diplopia, dysphagia, nausea and vertigo of subacute course in May 1998 Cerebellar syndrome and mild paresis of the left arm developed some weeks later reaching the plateau phase. In subsequent course the patient's neurological status deteriorated very slowly, but continuously requiring repeating imaging investigations to exclude tumour or other neurological diseases In spite of very extensive diagnostical work – up tumour was never detected and anti-Hu antibodies still persist. Patient is a wheel chair bound with significant disability but other neurological conditions were excluded.

Conclusion: Anti - Hu antibodies long term positivity in patient with brainstem encephalitis/cerebellar syndrome confronts hypothesis that tumour is discovered no later than during 5 years period from the onset of symptoms. Alternative hypothesis is that the tumour was removed by immune attack, but other immunopathological reasons cannot be excluded.