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Table 1. Summary of Patient Profile and Initial and Follow-up MR Results

Case No	Sex /Age	Treatment	Symptom	Duration*	Initial MR	Follow-up MR
1	M/1	MTX(IT) cranial irradiation	mental change	6 weeks	multifocal WM abnormality	(-)
2	M/5	MTX(IT)	mental change	7 weeks	multifocal WM abnormality	after 8 months, improved
3	M/5	MTX(IT)	convulsion	8 weeks	focal WM abnormality	after 2 months, improved
4	M/2	MTX(IT) cranial irradiation	mental change, dysarthria	17 weeks	diffuse periventricular WM abnormality without enhancement	after 3 months, no change of extent
5	F/1	MTX(IT) cranial irradiation	mental change	24 weeks	diffuse periventricular WM abnormality without enhancement	after 4 month, no change of extent
6	M/3	MTX(IT) cranial irradiation	convulsion	24 weeks	diffuse periventricular WM abnormality without enhancement	after 16 months, no change of extent
7	M/14	MTX(IT) cranial irradiation	convulsion	29 weeks	diffuse periventricular and subcortical WM abnormality with enhancement	after 1 months, enhancement
8	F/12	MTX(IT) cranial irradiation	mental change, hemiplegia	38 weeks	diffuse periventricular and subcortical WM abnormality with enhancement	after 7 months, enhancement

*Duration of intrathecal MTX exposure between initial intrathecal MTX administration and diagnosis of leukoencephalopathy.

IT: intrathecal, WM: white matter, No: number

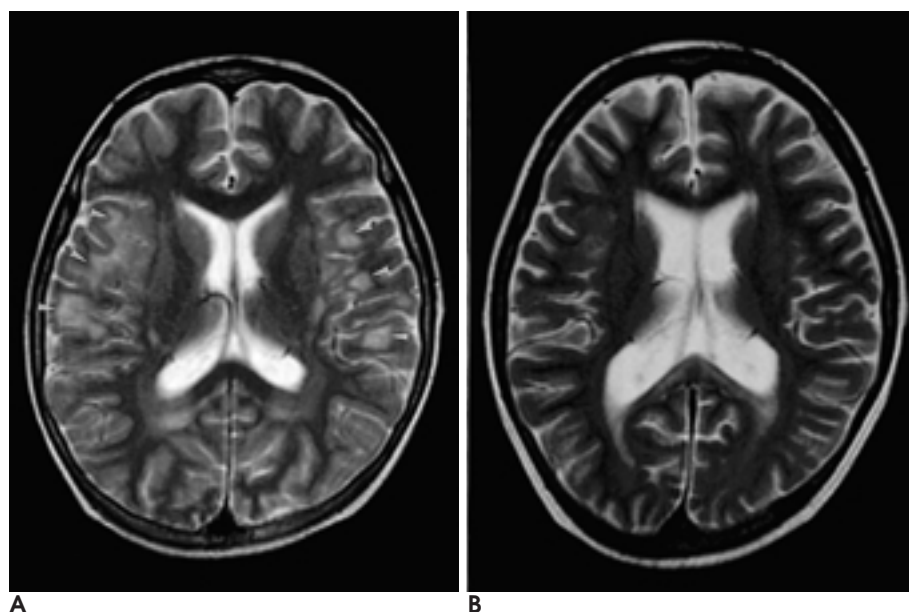


Fig. 1. A 5-year-old boy with leukoencephalopathy showing multifocal white matter abnormalities (case 2).

A. T2-weighted axial image shows multifocal hyperintense lesions involving white matters of the bilateral temporal regions (arrowheads).

B. Follow-up T2-weighted axial image 8 months after initial study demonstrate atrophic change with ventricular dilatation. Also note improvement of hyperintense lesions in the comparable areas in A.

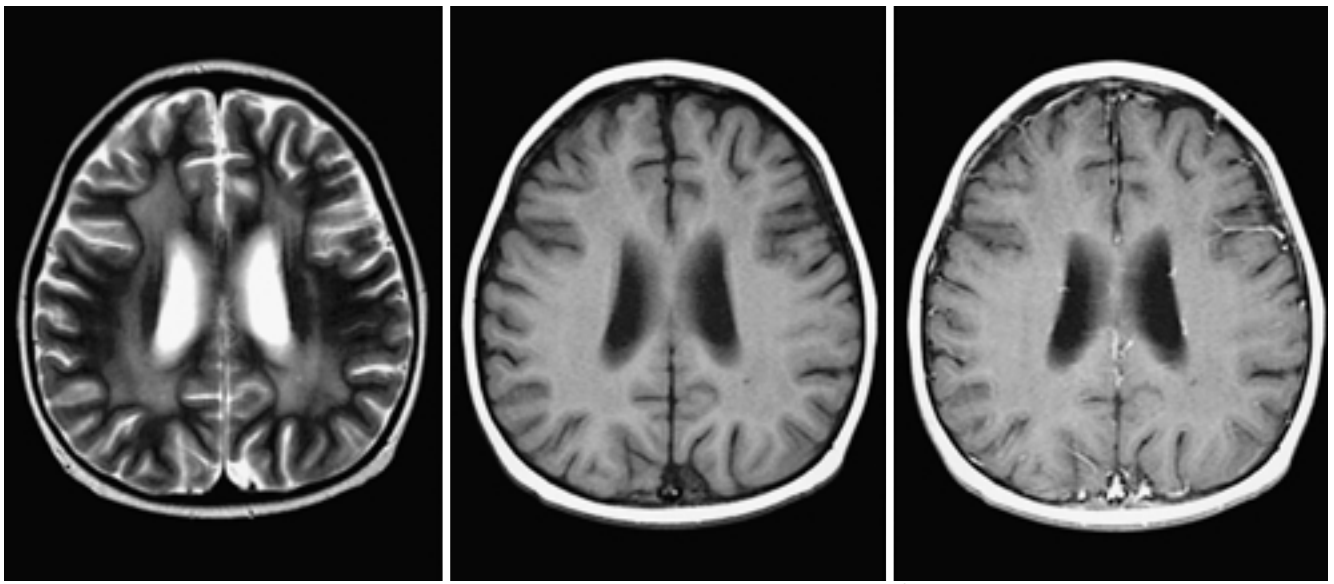


Fig. 2. A 3-year-old boy with leukoencephalopathy showing diffuse periventricular white matter abnormalities without enhancement (case 6).
A, B. T2-weighted(**A**) and T1-weighted(**B**) axial images show hyperintense and hypointense lesions involving diffuse periventricular white matters in both hemispheres with sparing of the subcortical white matter and atrophic change with ventricular dilatation.
C. Post-contrast image shows no enhancement of the lesion.

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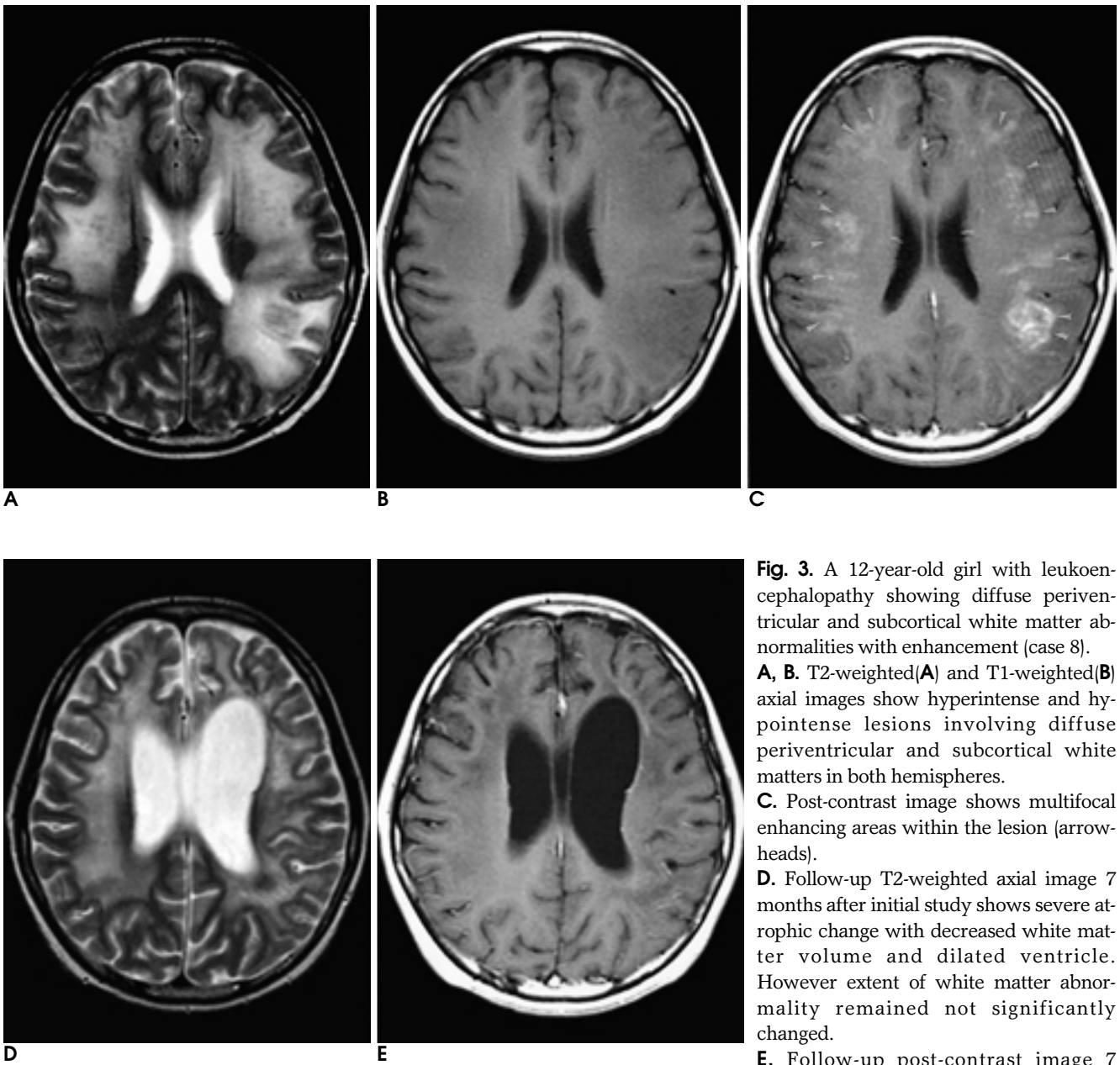


Fig. 3. A 12-year-old girl with leukoencephalopathy showing diffuse periventricular and subcortical white matter abnormalities with enhancement (case 8).

A, B. T2-weighted(**A**) and T1-weighted(**B**) axial images show hyperintense and hypointense lesions involving diffuse periventricular and subcortical white matters in both hemispheres.

C. Post-contrast image shows multifocal enhancing areas within the lesion (arrow-heads).

D. Follow-up T2-weighted axial image 7 months after initial study shows severe atrophic change with decreased white matter volume and dilated ventricle. However extent of white matter abnormality remained not significantly changed.

E. Follow-up post-contrast image 7 months after initial study demonstrates decreased enhancement in the comparable areas in C.

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Leukoencephalopathy Following CNS Prophylaxis Therapy in Pediatric Leukemia: MR Imaging Findings¹

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Purpose: To evaluate the MR imaging findings and the usefulness of MR imaging in the diagnosis and follow-up of leukoencephalopathy following CNS prophylaxis therapy in pediatric leukemia.

Materials and Methods: We retrospectively evaluated the MR imaging findings of eight children with white matter abnormalities on MR out of seventeen acute leukemic patients with various neuropsychiatric symptoms who received intrathecal methotrexate administration, with or without cranial irradiation. In all cases, initial MR was performed within a week of the onset of neuropsychiatric symptoms. Follow-up MR was performed one to sixteen months after initial study, and the MR imaging findings were compared with the initial findings.

Results: The initial MR imaging findings were classified into three categories: focal or multifocal white matter abnormalities (3/8), and diffuse white matter abnormalities without enhancement (3/8), and diffuse white matter abnormalities with enhancement (2/8). At follow-up MR, diffuse or focal atrophic changes were noted in all children. White matter abnormalities improved in two out of three patients with focal or multifocal white matter abnormalities. In five with diffuse white matter abnormalities, the extent of these showed no significant change, but contrast enhancement was markedly reduced in two children in whom diffuse white matter abnormalities with enhancement had been demonstrated.

Conclusion: In pediatric leukemia, the MR imaging findings of leukoencephalopathy following CNS prophylaxis therapy are variable, but are specific with the clinical history of neuropsychiatric symptoms after intrathecal methotrexate administration, with or without cranial irradiation. The MR imaging is valuable in the diagnosis and follow-up of leukoencephalopathy following CNS prophylaxis therapy in pediatric leukemia.

Index words : Brain, effects of drugs on
Brain, effects of irradiation on
Brain, MR
Brain, white matter

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