Case #1

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Reference: No. A-632-74

A sixty-two year old Puerto Rican male had a history of urinary tract infection and arterial hypertension. He lived somewhere in Pennsylvania but was born and raised in a Puerto Rican town surrounded by brooks. He developed low back pain and weakness in the lower extremities. He refused to have a myelogram and returned to Puerto Rico. Neurological exam revealed the complete loss of sensation at the T6 level anteriorly and T6 posteriorly including pain, touch, vibration and position. He became comatose and died four days after admission to the hospital.

Necroscopy revealed bilateral bronchopneumonia, multiple granulomas of liver and a cortical adenoma of the right kidney. The spinal cord at T6 and below showed no differentiation between grey and white matter. The cut surface was soft, mottled and grey-red.

Microscopic Pathology: Hematoxylin-eosin stained section of the spinal cord.

Points for Discussion:

1. Diagnosis
2. Importance of history of brook bathing in Puerto Rico