CASE 1

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Reference No.: 81-S-629

Clinical Abstract:

The patient is a 29-year-old, right-handed vietnamese man who arrived in the US in 1981. His illness started in 1978 with numbness of his left big toe. The numbness gradually spread proximally and at the time of the biopsy he had numbness and impaired recognition of pinprick over the left foot and lower 1/3 of the left leg. He has no symptoms affecting any other part of his body. Nerve conduction velocity of the left sural nerve was absent, while that of the left peroneal nerve was 40 m/sec. Needle electromyography indicated neurogenic motor units. The remainder of the physical examination was unremarkable.

In May of 1981 a left sural nerve biopsy was done. The nerve was enlarged and without pain during dissection. Biopsies of skin (left ankle and anterior chest) were also obtained. Ophthalmological examination was also performed.

Both negative

Material Submitted: One plastic embedded, H&E stained section

Points for Discussion: diagnosis and biological behavior