

Canadian Association of Neuropathologists
L'Association Canadienne des Neuropathologistes

CASE No 7

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This eleven- month- old baby girl was seen by a pediatric neurologist for 5 recent episodes consisting of 2-3 minutes of absence with hypotonia and falls followed by fatigue. No consanguinity, no familial history of epilepsy or convulsion and no febrile episodes were described. A lumbar puncture excluded viral infection or bleeding, gazometry was normal and cardiovascular status was considered unremarkable. The EEG revealed posterior slow waves corresponding to a post-ictal phase. The child was sent home with further investigations planned in the following weeks (MRI). Two days after release from hospital, the child was found at home with absent vital signs in his bed on a Saturday morning. A complete autopsy was performed two days later at the Medico-legal Institute, a pediatric pathologist consultant being present.

Material submitted: HE slide from the left cerebellar hemisphere, representative of the major features found.

Question: Do the changes seen in the cerebellum suggest a diagnosis?