

Picture Prognosis



A previously healthy seven-year-old boy presented with falling unconscious, seizures, vomiting, and altered sensorium. No relevant medical history, normal development, and nutrition. What's the diagnosis?

1. Post-traumatic Intracranial Hemorrhage
2. Cerebral Contusion
3. Lead Poisoning Encephalopathy
4. Status Epilepticus



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Answer: Lead Poisoning Encephalopathy

Lead poisoning, fairly common in the 20th century, has decreased drastically in the last decade. Severe lead poisoning in the form of encephalopathy has a fatality rate of 28% to 45% and neurological sequelae in about 82%. We present the management of a case of lead encephalopathy that recovered without any significant neurological sequelae in a resource-limited setting. A previously healthy seven-year-old boy presented with complaints of falling unconscious on the ground while playing, followed by multiple episodes of seizures, vomiting, and altered sensorium. The patient had pallor, Glasgow coma score of E2V3M3, with features of raised intracranial pressure. Lead poisoning was suspected as the patient had four months of exposure to a battery recycling factory.