

Case Presenter: Reza (@DxRxEdu) Case Discussants: Rabih (@rabihmgeha)

CC: Confusion and disorientation

HPI: 65 year old male brought to ED by his daughter for confusion. Previously able to do ADLs. Over last few days he **didn't seem his usual self**. He seemed disoriented and she noticed his hands shaking.

Vitals: T:37.6 HR:110 BP:170/100 RR:nl SpO₂: nl

Exam:

Gen: Awake

HEENT:

CV:

Pulm:

Abd:

Neuro: Repetition of questions asked (perseveration). Follows commands. nl strength. Reflexes difficult to elicit. **Bilateral tremor**

Extremities/Skin:

Problem Representation: A 65-year-old male on lithium, presenting with confusion, disorientation, and tremors with evidence of chronically elevated alkaline phosphatase

Teaching Points (Seyma★):

- **AMS:** Metabolic (electrolytes)-Infection (e.g. HSV-encephalitis)-Structural (subdural hemorrhage)-Toxins (opioids, withdrawal), Psychiatric (dementia +/- delirium) → TIME course!
- Focal-neurological deficit, unilateral deficit → prioritize structural problem
- Perseverations → consider frontal lobe dysfunction
- Physiological Sinustachycardia → prevents from hypotension
- **Sympathetic toxicity:** Diaphoresis, enhanced physiological Tremor, Tachycardia, Hypertension → e.g. Serotonergic syndrome, MNS, withdrawal (EtOH, Benzos), endogen (hypoglycemia, pheo, hyperthyroidism, seizure); Note: Li-Toxicity can mimic SS and MNS
- **Tremor:** Resting (Parkinson's), Cerebellar (Intention), (enhanced) physiological (Sympathetic toxicity)
- **AKI in elderly:** meds (e.g. Lithium), BPH-urinary retention, hypovolemia
- **Alk-P↑:** Is it bony (pain!) or liver-mediated?
 - Other causes: Lithium!, pregnancy, paraneoplastic
 - Bone: Osteomalacia, bony tumor, prostate cancer
 - Chronic Alk-P elevation w/o pain: classic for Paget's dz → usually not painful!
 - Note: Alk-P is usually normal in multiple myeloma
- **Lithium-toxicity:** tremor, nephrogenic DI (polyuria, polydypsia), encephalopathy, ALK-P elevation (→ primary hyperpara due to PT hyperplasia); alteration of bone homeostasis, hyperthyroidism
 - Also consider the **SILENT syndrome:** mostly w/ normal/low Li-levels w/ apathy and later ataxia
 - Acute Sx: GI (diarrhea, nausea), Neuro (late-→tremor, ataxia, seizure, myoclonus), no renal, cardiac (Qt prolongation)
 - Chronic Sx: Neuro (early), Renal (chronic int. Nephritis, nephrogenic DI, RTA1)

PMH:
Bipolar disorder

Fam Hx:

Soc Hx:

Meds:
Lithium

Health-Related Behaviors:

Allergies:

Notable Labs & Imaging:**Hematology:**

WBC:nl Hgb: mild anemia Plt:

Chemistry:

Na: K: Cl: CO2: BUN: Cr: 1.6 (baseline 0.9) glucose: Ca: Phos: Mag: AST: ALT: Alk-P: 300 (chronically elevated) T. Bili: Albumin: TSH- nl, Serum alcohol and Urine tox-neg, GGT- negative, PTH- nl

Imaging: Evidence of Paget's disease

Evolution: Cr downtrended with hydration

Final dx: Li neurotoxicity + Paget's disease