

**45th ANNUAL DIAGNOSTIC SLIDE SESSION, 2003
REFERENCES AND DIAGNOSES**

MODERATOR: E. Tessa Hedley-Whyte, M.D.

EDITOR: Leroy R. Sharer, M.D.

Case 2004-8

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Diagnosis: Non-specific meningoencephalitis, etiology unknown

Comment: All tests performed during the patient's life to establish a diagnosis were negative, including tests for syphilis. Specimens were sent to the California Encephalitis Project (an effort of the California Department of Health) and the CDC, without either group being able to arrive at a specific diagnosis. Members of the audience suggested several diagnoses, including encephalitic neurosarcoidosis, Wegener's granulomatosis, CNS Erdheim-Chester disease, and a paraneoplastic disorder (although the autopsy did not reveal any neoplastic process).

References:

Glaser CA, Gilliam S, Schnurr D, et al: In search of encephalitis etiologies: diagnostic challenges in the California Encephalitis Project, 1998-2000. Clin Infect Dis 2003; 36:731-742.

Johnson RT: Acute encephalitis. Clin Infect Dis 1996; 23:219-226.

Scheld WM, Whitley RJ, Durack DT: Infections of the Central Nervous System, 2nd ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott-Raven, 1997.