

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

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Case 2004-5

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Diagnosis: Amoebic encephalitis due to *Acanthamoeba*

Comment: The diagnosis of *Acanthamoeba* was confirmed by immunofluorescence at the CDC. Nucleic acid-amplification testing (PCR) revealed an organism that has been seen previously in humans, but it has not been identified in the environment. Dr. Yachnis pointed out that Gomori methenamine silver stain is helpful for demonstrating cyst walls. Amoebae are not often seen on biopsy.

References:

Koide J, Abe T: Granulomatous amoebic encephalitis caused by *Acanthamoeba* in a patient with systemic lupus erythematosus. Clin Rheumatol 1998; 17:329-332.

Martinez AJ, Visvesvara GS: Free-living, amphizoic and opportunistic amebas. Brain Pathol 1997; 7:583-598.