AANP Slide Session 1982

CASE 1

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Clinical Abstract:

The patient is a 29-year-old, right-handed man who had just arrived in the US. His illness started 3 years earlier with numbness of his left big toe. The numbness gradually spread proximally and at the time of the biopsy he had numbness and impaired recognition of pinprick over the left foot and lower 1/3 of the left leg. He has no symptoms affecting any other part of his body. Nerve conduction velocity of the left sural nerve was absent, while that of the left peroneal nerve was 40 m/sec. Needle electromyography indicated neurogenic motor units. The remainder of the physical examination was unremarkable.

A left sural nerve biopsy was done. The nerve was enlarged and without pain during dissection. Biopsies of skin (left ankle and anterior chest) were also obtained. Ophthalmological examination was also performed.

Material Submitted: One plastic embedded, H&E stained section

Points for Discussion: diagnosis and biological behavior