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Case 2007-9

Submitted by:

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Clinical History:

The patient was a 54 year old man with genetically confirmed Huntington's disease (CAG repeat length 45). His mother and grandmother both died of Huntington's disease. He presented at age 40 with personality changes, lack of motivation, and depression. Choreiform movements as well as balance and gait difficulties soon resulted in an inability to work. He experienced bilateral subdural hematomas eight years earlier. His disease slowly progressed, and he died due to complications of Huntington's disease (pneumonia) in a nursing home.

Necropsy Findings:

This was a brain-only autopsy. At autopsy, the dura was not available. The caudate and putamen bilaterally were atrophic with associated ventriculomegaly. There were no focal lesions identified grossly.

Material Submitted:

GFAP/Luxol Fast Blue stained section of caudate/putamen.

Points for Discussion:

1. Diagnosis
2. Clinical implications