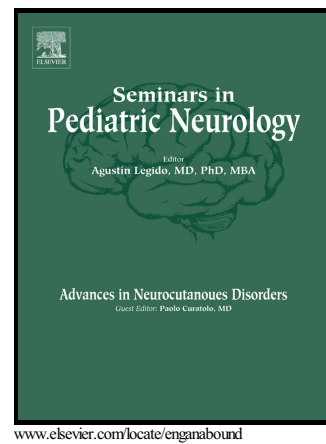


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A case of an unusual Bell's Palsy mimic

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Key Words: Bells Palsy, Cranial nerve VII, encephalocele, Temporal bone.

Abstract:

We discuss the case of five-year-old male who presented with an isolated left-sided cranial nerve seven palsy that was initially MRI negative. Due to continued symptoms, repeat MRI was performed and showed a temporal bone encephalocele. A review of the differential diagnosis of cranial nerve seven palsy, warning signs signaling the need for additional workup and a discussion of temporal lobe encephaloceles is provided in the case report. It is important to recognize that structural lesions can closely mimic idiopathic Bell's palsy, despite initial negative imaging.

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