“Mummy, my eyelids are heavy”: A case series of juvenile myasthenia gravis

Logeswari Krishna, Nor Fadzillah Abdul Jali, Pool Wah Lott, Sujaya Singh, May May Choo

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Abstract

Purpose:
To report three cases of juvenile myasthenia gravis aged between 18 and 24 months with ocular symptoms as their first presentation.

Method:
A case series.

Results:
We present a case series of juvenile myasthenia gravis in a tertiary centre in Malaysia. Two of the three cases consist of a pair of twins who presented with ptosis of bilateral eyes; the first twin presented 4 months later than the second twin. These two cases were positive for anti-acetylcholine receptor antibodies and had generalized myasthenia gravis, whereas the other case was negative for receptor antibodies and was purely ocular myasthenia gravis.

Conclusion:
Juvenile myasthenia gravis is relatively rare in toddlers. Early diagnosis and commencement of treatment is important to slow the progression of the disease and avoiding life-threatening events.

Keywords
Juvenile, myasthenia gravis, ptosis, ophthalmoplegia, anticholinesterase