

H1N1 influenza acute myocarditis associated with AMAN Guillan Barrè Syndrome: a case report

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Acute myocarditis is a possible complication of influenza infections. The incidence of this influenza complication is rare but with broad spectrum of clinical presentation: from reversible cardiomyopathy [1] to fulminant myocarditis [2].

Guillan Barrè syndrome is also a complication of influenza infections. Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) is an autoimmune inflammatory peripheral neuropathy disease, which results from an aberrant organ specific immune response that affects primarily the myelin sheath of the proximal portion of peripheral nerves. The diagnosis of GBS is based on a combination of clinical and laboratory features. [3] The spectrum of GBS includes acute inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (AIDP), acute motor axonal neuropathy (AMAN), acute motor sensory axonal neuropathy (AMSAN), and some other variants like Miller-Fisher syndrome (MFS). [4] In Europe and North America only 5% of patients with GBS have axonal subtypes. In La Spezia area GBS incidence (especially the AMAN subtype) is significantly higher than the incidence reported in Europe. [5]

We report a case of H1N1 influenza with acute myocarditis and AMAN subtype of GBS living in La Spezia region. The case was treated with VA ECMO and then IABP to support cardiac failure due to myocarditis. GBS was treated with Ig infusion with resolution of neurological state one month later.