

Case 1 Vignette

14yr old girl

Presenting Complaint

One month history of weakness of legs – occurring most days, especially during week. Worst in mornings, better in evenings. Limited mobility – worsening severity. Requiring assistance to meet own self care – dressing, toileting. Unable to go to school for 2 weeks, requiring wheel chair.

Past Medical History/ Past Psychiatric History

Nil. No allergies

Family History

Mother – 42; Father 50. Youngest of 5 children – older sister 18; 3 brothers – 20, 21, 25

Maternal grandmother, mother – depression

Birth History

Unplanned. Normal pregnancy; FTNVD, 5lb 4oz. Jaundice – 5/7.

Developmental milestones – NAD

Personal/Social History

School – always in top set; shy quiet girl- small group of friends. Best at English – loves creative writing, reading.

Father self-employed shop keeper – originally from Pakistan. Extended family – yearly visits to paternal family in Pakistan. Mother's younger sister lives nearby and helping care for child.

Older sister – left home 2 months earlier – married – living in Pakistan – arranged marriage

Examination

Variable neurological signs, including variable sensory responses, tone (flaccid/rigid), strength, reflex and range of movement, in all limbs, more severe in lower limbs; central trunk and CNS unaffected. No incontinence

Investigations – all normal (*what would you consider?*)

Treatment

Physiotherapy – engages – but no expected progress over 3 months.

Observations note tearful/anxious at times. More distressed in presence of family. Symptoms more evident in family presence or with more senior staff. At times appears indifferent to symptoms, or consequences about impaired functioning.

No change after 3 months prompts referral to CAMHS