

## Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Combined with Abnormal Sensory Nerve Conduction

Sang Hyuk Seo, M.D., Jae Young An, M.D., Taek-Jun Lee, M.D., Yeon-Lim Suh, M.D.\*,  
Kyong Jin Shin, M.D.<sup>†</sup>, Byoung Joon Kim, M.D.

*Department of Neurology and Pathology\**, Samsung Medical Center,  
*Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, Hanmaeum General Hospital*<sup>†</sup>

Underlying neuropathies combined with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) cast doubt on the diagnosis of ALS when present.

Abnormal sural nerve conduction was found in 3 patients with clinically definite ALS. Pathologically demyelinating, axonal, or vasculitic neuropathy was suggested respectively. High dose oral corticosteroid had no effect and clinical courses were deteriorating in all the patients.

The causes of combined neuropathies were unclear. Possibility of direct consequence of ALS, concomitant neuropathies, or rare variants of ALS should be considered in these cases.

**Key Words:** Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Neuropathy, Sural nerve

(ALS)

ALS

1. 1

55 가

가 , 3

가 .<sup>1</sup>

ALS 가

가 .<sup>2</sup>

가 MRC Grade III IV 가

ALS .<sup>3</sup>

가

Address for correspondence

**Byoung Joon Kim, M.D.**

Department of Neurology, Samsung Medical Center,  
Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine,  
Irwon-Dong 50, Gangnam-Gu, Seoul, 135-710, Korea,  
Tel: +82-2-3410-3594 Fax: +82-2-3410-0052  
E-mail : bjkim@smc.samsung.co.kr

\* ( )

(Table 1). 가 MRC Grade IV<sup>o</sup>~IV 가

Onion - bulb 가 가

(Fig. 1). 가

, GM<sub>1</sub> (IgG IgM), , C- 가

peripheral myelin protein (PMP22) myelin protein zero (MPZ) (Table 1). myelin

가 ALS digestion chamber가 (Fig. 1).

2. 2 1 가 T2

54 가 6 FLAIR image 가 (Fig. 2)

, 6 가 ALS

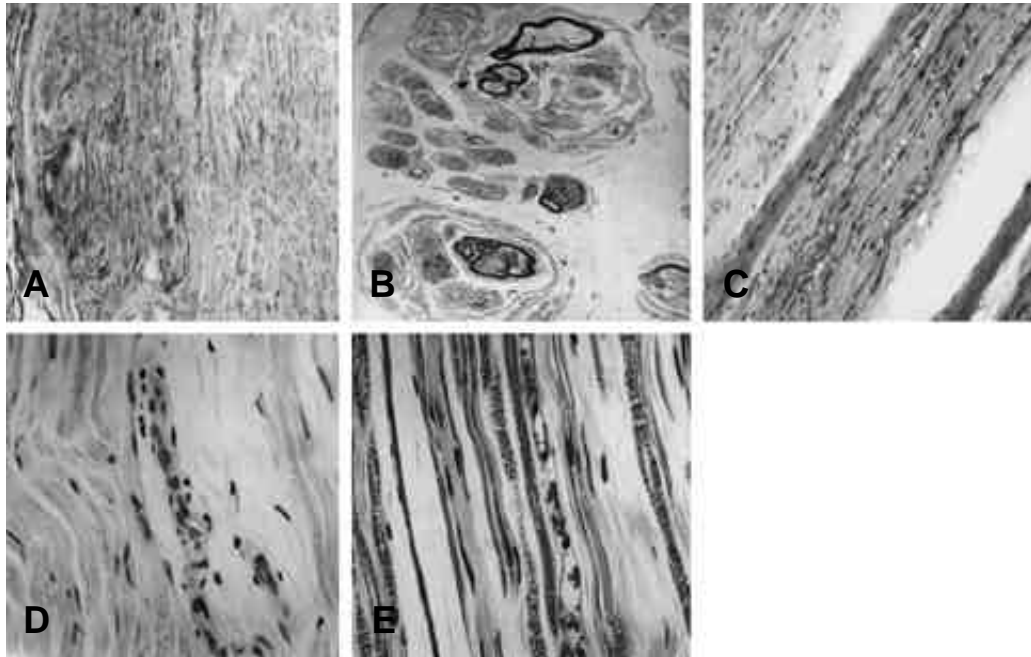
가

**Table 1.** Nerve conduction study of 3 patients with ALS combined with peripheral neuropathies

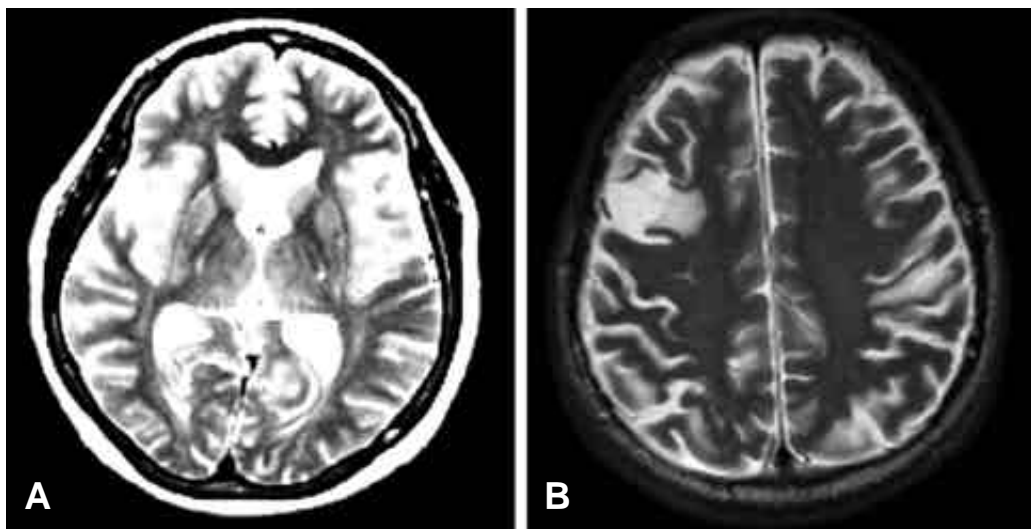
		Case 1		Case 2		Case 3	
		Right	Left	Right	Left	Right	Left
<b>Motor NCS*</b>							
Median nerve	Latency P/D <sup>†</sup> (msec)	3.8/10.5	ND <sup>‡</sup>	4.5/11.6	4.2/10.3	6.0/15.9	3.6/10.7
	Amplitude P/D (uV)	15.0/10.9		4.2/3.3	2.8/2.3	0.28/0.24	12.5/10.0
	Velocity P/D(m/sec)	51/58		45/48	52/60	36/48	52/54
Ulnar nerve	Latency P/D (msec)	2.7/8.9	ND	2.9/9.2	2.9/9.2	2.5/10.	ND
	Amplitude P/D (uV)	11.1/10.4		7.7/5.7	5.2/3.9	10.7/9.84	
	Velocity P/D(m/sec)	57/59		59/57	53/63	50/53	
Peroneal nerve	Latency P/D (msec)	4.0/11.1	4.0/11.1	4.0/9.8	4.3/9.8	NP	5.4/13.6
	Amplitude P/D (uV)	4.1/3.6	4.1/3.6	7.4/6.6	3.9/2.7		3.3/2.2
	Velocity (m/sec)	48	46	49	50		36
Post.Tibial nerve	Latency P/D (msec)	4.1/11.7	4.4/11.5	4.4/11.1	4.4/10.7	4.2/13.7	3.9/13.2
	Amplitude P/D (uV)	21.0/15.2	18.6/14.8	13.5/11.4	16.2/12.9	1.23/0.86	8.3/6.5
	Velocity (m/sec)	45	48	48	51	38	40
<b>Sensory NCS</b>							
Median nerve	Distal latency (msec)	2.5	ND	2.4	2.1	2.7	2.6
	Amplitude (uV)	5.1		31	54.4	23.5	31.8
	Velocity P/D (m/sec)	41/35		42/38	44/42	36/32	43/38
Ulnar nerve	Distal latency (msec)	2	ND	1.8	1.8	2	ND
	Amplitude (uV)	4.7		29.3	40.5	16.8	
	Velocity P/D (m/sec)	43/53		45/61	44/64	47/54	
Sural nerve	Distal latency (msec)	NP <sup>§</sup>	NP	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.8
	Amplitude (uV)			35.8	18.31	2.8	11.1
	Velocity P/D (m/sec)			46	45	45	41

\* NCS; nerve conduction study, <sup>†</sup> P/D; proximal/distal, <sup>‡</sup> ND; Not done, <sup>§</sup>NP; no potential

3. 3 가  
 MRC Grade IV<sup>o</sup>~IV\*  
 70 가 7 가 Grade II  
 가 4 10 Kg 가  
 가 가



**Figure 1.** Pathologic findings of sural nerves in 3 ALS patients (A) The longitudinal section in case 1 (Masson-trichrome stain,  $\times 50$ ) shows a decreased number of myelinated fibers, (B) The electron microscopic findings in case 1 ( $\times 2000$ ) show onion-bulb formations of the proliferating Schwann cells around remyelinating and non-myelinated axons. (C) Light microscopic findings in case 2 (Luxol fast blue stain,  $\times 100$ ) show myelin digestion chambers and ovoids, and decreased number of myelinated fibers. (D) Light microscopic findings in case 3 (Bodian stain,  $\times 200$ ) show mild perivascular lymphocytic infiltration in endoneurial and epineurial small vessels. (E) Light microscopic findings in case 3 (Luxol fast blue stain,  $\times 200$ ) show myelin digestion chambers and ovoids, and decreased number of myelinated fibers.



**Figure 2.** Brain MRI findings in 2 ALS patients with axonal neuropathies. (A) In case 2, brain MRI shows symmetrically increased signal intensities in the posterior limbs of internal capsules. (B) In case 3, brain MRI shows chronic infarction in the right frontal lobe and bilateral parietal lobes.



ALS

. ALS

ALS

가

가

## REFERENCES

1. World Federation of Neurology Research group on neuromuscular disease. El Escorial World Federation of Neurology criteria for the diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. *J Neurol Sci* 1994;124:97-107.
2. Heads T, Pollock M, Robertson A, Sutherland W, Allpress S. Sensory nerve pathology in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. *Acta Neuropathol* 1991;82:316-320.
3. Dyck PJ, Steven JC, Mulder DN, Espinosa RE. Frequency of nerve fiber degeneration of peripheral motor and sensory neurons in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. *Neurology* 1975;25:781-785.
4. Carvalho M, Swash M. Nerve conduction studies in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. *Muscle Nerve* 2000;23:344-352.
5. Mondelli M, Rossi A, Passero S, Gauzzi GC. Involvement of peripheral sensory fibers in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: electrophysiological study of 64 cases. *Muscle Nerve* 1993;16:166-172.
6. Maldonado ME, Williams RC, Jr., Adair JC, Hart BL, Gregg L, Sibbitt WL, Jr. Neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus presenting as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. *J Rheumatol* 2002;29:633-635.
7. Brownlees J, Ackerley S, Grierson AJ, Jacobsen NJ, Shea K, Anderton BH, et al. Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease neurofilament mutations disrupt neurofilament assembly and axonal transport. *Hum Mol Genet* 2002;11:2837-2844.
8. Muglia M, Azppia M, Timmerman V. Clinical and genetic study of a large Charcot-Marie-Tooth type 2A family from southern Italy. *Neurology* 2001;56:100-103.
9. Vance JM. Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease type 2. *Ann NY Acad Sci* 1999;883:42-46.
10. Clemens OH, Albert CL. Hereditary motor neuropathies and motor neuron diseases: which is which, *Amyotroph Lateral Scler Other Motor Neuron Disord* 2002;3:186-189.