Neurocysticercosis

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1. Objective

Neuroinfections are important brain diseases and they affect a lot of people all over the world, but not all the people know about their existence. The aim of this work is to deepen in the pathological, biochemistry and clinical aspects of Neurocysticercosis, an helminthic disease that affects the central nervous system. It is caused by larvae of Taenia solium, who lives in the small intestine of humans.

2. Sources and methods

General information:
- Afflicted countries: Latin America, India, Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Incidence: 1/1000 for human taeniasis.
- Age: 5-15 years old.
- Problems: high poverty, warm weather, illiteracy...

3. Introduction

4. Clinical Manifestations

Astrocytes

5. Immuno response

6. Lifecycle of Taenia solium

7. Treatment

Taeniasis

8. Conclusions

Surgery

- Neurocysticercosis is endemic in many parts of the world, specially in developing countries. However we have to take into consideration the diagnosis in developed countries by immigration of endemic countries.
- Neurocysticercosis is the most common cause of symptomatic epilepsy worldwide. Despite the severity of the disease, most people don’t give the importance to it, since it principally affects developing countries.
- Treatment and diagnosis works well, but can be improved.
- This parasite disease is potentially curable, but to be effective we need eradication programs that consist:
  1. Interrupt the tapeworm-host cycle.
  2. The vaccination of pig against infection with the parasite, which indirectly reduce the appearance of new cases of the disease.
  3. Possible vaccination for human.
But the best alternative is the education and the health promotion, specially in developing countries.