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A death due to Dengue Fever with a potential for allegation of medical mis-management

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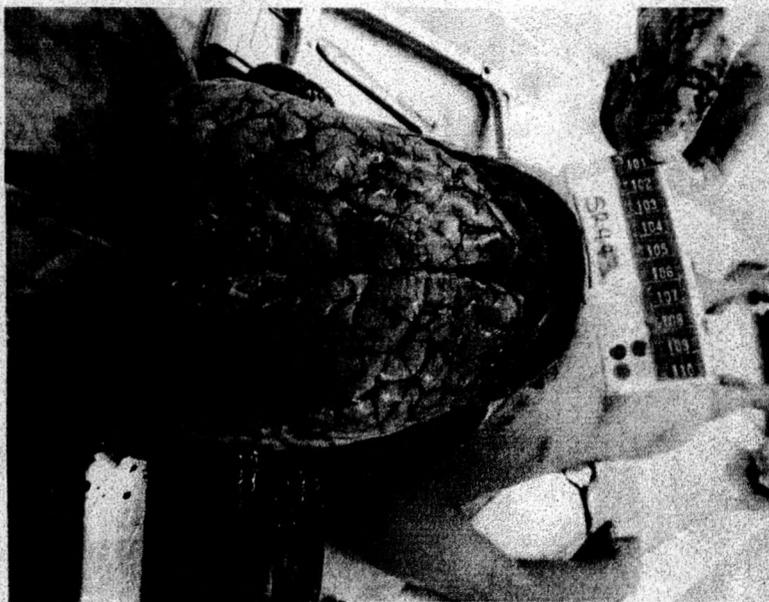
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Introduction

Despite the improvement in investigation techniques and updated management protocols, dengue continues to be a killer in Sri Lanka. The reason for this is due to late presentations to hospital, prescribing NSAID by GPs, misdiagnosis, poor monitoring and mismanagement in ward setup.

Case Report

A previously-healthy 10 year old boy presented with a history of high fever and upper respiratory tract infection for last 3 days. He passed away 48 hours after being admitted to hospital. No external or internal features of bleeding manifestations were evident. Massive cerebral oedema with 1.7kg of brain weight, 600 ml of Straw coloured fluids in plural cavity, 800ml of the same type of fluid in peritoneal cavity and flame shaped haemorrhages in endocardium were evident. Ancillary reports were negative for H₁N₁, Leptospirosis and Dengue. Histology of all organs was unremarkable. CSF-PCR was positive for Dengue.



Conclusion

Cause of death was given as Dengue Shock Syndrome. Dengue antigen test which is available in MRI can be done on day one in order to assist efficacious management.