performed as described in Stiasny et al. (6) showed a strongly positive titer of 1:320. We excluded hepatitis C virus; West Nile virus infection has not been reported in Poland. Because of his religious beliefs, the patient had not been vaccinated against TBE or yellow fever; he had not traveled abroad and had not been exposed to dengue virus. The differential diagnosis included Lyme disease, but the results of repeated serologic tests for *B. burgdorferi* were negative.

Chorea arises deep in the basal ganglia; high-definition MRI demonstrates caudate atrophy (7). In patients with TBE, MRI may reveal unilateral or bilateral thalamus lesions, as well as lesions in the cerebellum, brainstem, and nucleus caudalis (8). One case study presented a case of simultaneous lesions in the thalamus, stem, and spinal cord (9). Chorea developed in the patient reported here because of inflammatory lesions in the region of the thalamus. Supportive care is standard for patients with chorea (10), but after treatment for TBE, the lesions in this patient resolved, and the chorea abated.

Joanna Zajkowska,1 Anna Moniuszko,1 Piotr Czupryna, Wiesław Drozdowski, Waldemar Krupa, Katarzyna Guziejko, Maciej Kondrusik, Sambor Grygorczuk, and Slawomir Panczewicz

Author affiliation: Medical University, Białystok, Poland

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Address for correspondence: Anna Moniuszko, Department of Infectious Diseases and Neurinfections, Medical University of Białystok, Zurawia 14, 15-540 Białystok, Poland; email: annamoniuszko@op.pl

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(3.8-fold increase in aspartate aminotransferase and 2.5-fold increase in alanine aminotransferase levels). There was no hyperleukocytosis (leukocyte count 7.7 × 10⁶ cells/L). Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was slightly opalescent and had a protein level of 1.16 g/L, a glucose level of 2.2 mmol/L, and 270 leukocytes/mL (79% neutrophils and 21% lymphocytes). Gram staining of CSF showed numerous gram-positive cocci in pairs and short chains.

CSF and blood cultures after 12 and 48 hours, respectively, of incubation showed numerous α-hemolytic colonies on blood and chocolate agar. The bacteria were gram positive, optochin resistant, and catalase negative, and were reliably identified by using API 20 Strept (bioMérieux, Marcy l’Etoile, France) as S. suis (probability 99.7%).

Antimicrobial drug susceptibility tests were conducted by using Mueller-Hinton agar and the disk diffusion method. An E-test was performed for ampicillin (MIC=0.016 µg/mL). The isolate was resistant to gentamicin (500 µg/L), tetracycline, and norfloxacin, and sensitive to penicillin, ampicillin, amoxicillin, oxacillin, cefotaxim, pristinamycin, vancomycin, teicoplanin, trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole, erythromycin, and lincomycin in comparison with published data (7). Slide agglutination with type-specific hyperimmune serum and specific multiplex PCR (8,9) identified the isolate as serotype 2. Multilocus sequence typing identified the isolate as a member of the sequence type 1 complex, which has spread throughout most countries in Europe. This complex has been strongly associated with isolates from patients with septicemia, meningitis, and arthritis (10).

After S. suis was identified, the patient reported contact with swine and that he had slaughtered 4 pigs 24 hours before onset of symptoms. During this activity, he injured his left thumb. The patient was empirically given a 2-day course of intravenous, high-dose ceftriaxone (3 g, 2×/d), which was replaced by intravenous high-dose amoxicillin (3g, 4×/d) for 14 days.

While the patient was receiving treatment for 2 days, moderate bilateral hyponoacusia developed, which required adjunctive corticoid therapy. The hyponoacusia developed into severe hearing loss in the left ear. Audiograms showed moderate sensorial hearing loss (50 dB) in the right ear on day 7 of treatment, which resolved 1.5 years later, and complete hearing loss in the left ear on day 7 of treatment, which that gradually decreased. However, the patient still has severe sensorinoral hearing loss (80 dB) in the left ear. The patient did not have signs or symptoms of endocarditis by cardiac ultrasonography.

Little data are available for circulation and epidemiology of S. suis in South America (3). We report a human case of S. suis infection with meningitis and bacteremia. Clinical and laboratory data, microbiological findings, and outcome for this case-patient were similar to those of the case-patients reported in Asia (1,2).

Our study shows that in nonendemic areas, infection with this pathogen, although not frequently reported, should be considered when diagnoses are made for patients who work in piggeries. Persons with occupational exposure to swine or pork products should be educated and made aware of this risk for infection.

Magalie Demar, Carine Belzunce, Christine Simonnet, Alain Renaux, Philippe Abboud, Antoine Okandze, Corrine Marois-Créhan, and Felix Djossou

Author affiliations: Centre Hospitalier de Cayenne, Cayenne, French Guiana (M. Demar, C. Belzunce, C. Simonnet, A. Renaux, P. Abboud, A. Okandze, F. Djossou); and Agence Nationale de Sécurité Sanitaire, Ploufragan, France (C. Marois-Créhan)

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Address for correspondence: Magalie Demar, Unit of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, Cayenne Hospital, Avenue des Flamboyants, Cayenne BP 6006.97300, French Guiana; email: mdemar@yahoo.com