

# Pantothenate Kinase-Associated Neurodegeneration (PKAN) With a Typical “Eye of the Tiger”: A Radiology Case Report

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## Case Report

A 7-year-old boy was referred to the radiology department for the evaluation of progressive developmental regression, dystonia and dysarthria. The neurological examination revealed upper limb tremor, spastic paraparesis with rigidity, dystonic movements and dysarthria. His birth history was unremarkable, and developmental regression began at the age of 4. Laboratory tests and EEG results were normal.

The patient underwent scanning using a 1.5T MRI system, with the protocol involving 3D FLAIR images, a 3D T1-weighted images, susceptibility-weighted imaging (SWI), and diffusion-weighted imaging (DWI). Both T2 and SWI images revealed bilateral and symmetric hyperintensities within the globus pallidus, surrounded by a hypointense area. No other lesions were observed, including other basal ganglia and substantia nigra.

This combination of findings is suggestive of a typical case of the tiger, characteristic of pantothenate kinase-associated neurodegeneration (PKAN), though not pathognomonic.

## Discussion

PKAN, formerly called Hallervorden-Spatz syndrome, is the most usual type of neurodegeneration with brain iron accumulation (NBIA), accounting for half of the NBIA cases and has an estimated prevalence of 1-3/100000 [1].

It is an autosomal recessive disorder resulting from a mutation in the pantothenate kinase 2-gene (PANK2). PANK 2 is essential for the production of the pantothenate kinase 2 enzyme, which regulates coenzyme A (CoA) synthesis. Insufficiency of this enzyme leads to the destruction of the phospholipid membrane, primarily in the basal

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### Informed consent

Written informed consent was obtained from a legally authorized representative for anonymized patient information to be published in this article.

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