

## WADE ROSE 145



History of the present illness: Wade Rose is a 75 y.o. Ethiopian male whose family brings him to you with the chief complaint of deafness for the past 1 year and difficulty walking for the past 2 years. Both of these were of gradual onset. They did not seem to be associated with any illness. Both symptoms are symmetrical,

affecting his left and right sides similarly. He seems to have particular difficulty walking at night; his sons have to get up to help him urinate.

Past medical and social history: Wade spent most of his adult life as a cowboy and cattle merchant. He bought cattle in the south of the country and herded them, driving them north to various slaughter houses while on horseback. He has had

malaria multiple times, a few injuries from which he recovered nicely, and pneumonia 5 years ago. He has had no immunizations, has no allergies, and is on no medication.

Physical exam: Wade is alert and in no distress. Your questions all have to be directed to his sons because he is unable to hear anything. Vital signs: T 97.8; P 82; R 20; BP 104/66; The skin is warm, dry, and normal in texture. Head is normal size and shape. Pupils are equal, round, and totally unresponsive to light. The whites of the eyes are white. Corneas are clear. Inside the lower lids is normal pink. The nose is normal shape and without sores. The outer ears, canals, and ear drums are normal in appearance. The teeth are deficient in number with a lot of decay; the mouth is moist. The tonsils are normal size and color. There are no enlarged lymph nodes in the neck, front or back. The thyroid is not enlarged. The patient can move his neck in all directions without pain. Heart sounds have no murmur. Lungs are clear. Bowel sounds are present and normal. Liver and spleen are not enlarged. The abdomen is soft and non-tender. There are no enlarged lymph nodes in the groin. The kidney area in back is not tender. Arms and legs show no swelling. The patient can move his limbs in all directions without complaint of pain. When he tries to walk his gait is awkward and he watches his feet continually. He cannot walk without looking down. Respond.

### Options:

- Treat him yourself.
- Tell the family nothing can be done.
- Send him to a government clinic.
- Send him to a private clinic.

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## **Past history and setting:**

What does the patient eat? Corn, sweet potatoes, bread made with cassava.

Has he ever been treated for a sexually transmitted disease?

He's never said so, but the family doesn't know.

Is he currently married? No, his wife died in childbirth and he never remarried.

How long ago was he widowed? More than 20 years ago.

Are his children healthy? Yes

Is there any radioactive source in his environment? No

Is there African sleeping sickness in the area? No

## **Present illness:**

Was the hearing loss symmetrical from the beginning? Yes

Was the difficulty walking symmetrical from the beginning?

Yes

Can he touch his nose with his eyes closed? No

Does he tremble when he holds still? No

Did he have ringing in the ears when the deafness started? One son says, "Yes;" another says, "No."

Did he have ear pain or pus coming from his ears? No, neither.

Did the patient take quinine or aspirin when the deafness started? No

Did the problem begin with a high fever? No

Has he taken any ethnic medicines? No

**Laboratory:** Urinalysis entirely normal; Hemoglobin 90%.

