In severe lymphadenopathy and systemic illness, doxycycline and rifampicin are effective. Treatment duration ranges between 5 days and 6 weeks in immunocompromised patients or endocarditis. Isolated case reports suggest that corticosteroids may be beneficial in encephalopathy. Overall, the long-term prognosis is typically excellent, with or without antimicrobials. Prevention of infection is best achieved by the control of flea infestation in cats and kittens. Our case could have been missed because of atypical presentation. We suggest considering CSD as a differential diagnosis in patients presenting with acute encephalopathy even in the absence of classic features of the disease.

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Pacemaker prohibited

Most European ski resorts no longer use photographic identity as evidence of a valid lift pass. Due to technological advances, the new “hands-free” pass which works by electronic recognition has supervened. Unfortunately these external electromagnetic influences (EMI) may affect conventional pacemakers. Thus, any keen skier with a pacemaker would be disappointed to see this warning sign attached to the ski lift turnstiles.

Interaction of an EMI with a pacemaker is a rare but possible serious experience. The result may range from a minor rhythm disturbance to a terminal event. Fortunately, most modern pacemakers have a “noise” mode into which they switch when confusing signals are encountered. This “noise” mode reverts to a generic heartbeat pacing that is sustained until the confusing signal is removed. The real worry is that the only warning is on the turnstile at the base of the slope and the possibility of pacemaker interference is not widely advertised upon purchase of a lift pass.

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Figure 1 Ski pass turnstile.
Pacemaker prohibited

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