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NeuroImages

Progressive micrographia in a migraineur

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In September 1998, a 68-year-old man was evaluated for possible PD. His only symptom was “slowing up a bit” over recent months. His medical history was unremarkable except for a long record of intermittent episodes of visual scintillations, which had been diagnosed as acephal-gic migraine. The patient had kept a careful record of the number of these episodes over a 15-year time period (figure).

The figure suggests three possible diagnoses: PD (acquired micrographia); migraine (episodic visual episodes over a 15-year period); and obsessive-compulsive personal-ity disorder.

The figure illustrates the value of examining a patient's handwritten personal records as part of the neurologic examination. In addition, the finding of isolated acquired micrographia may help identify otherwise asymptomatic patients with PD and allow early institution of neuropro-protective therapy.

MONTH	VISION EPISODES BY NUMBER												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1983	1	2,3		4									4
1984		5							6		7	8	4
1985	9		10	11			12				13	14	6
1986	15	16				17					18		4
1987								19					1
1988	NONE												—
1989			20		21			22					3
1990			23	24	25	26	27	28			29	30	10
1991						31	32				33	34	10
1992	35, 36, 37, 38, 39			40	41	42, 43, 44	45	46	47	48	49	50, 51, 52	26
1993	53, 54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	11
1994	66, 67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	16
1995	79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86	87, 88	89, 90	91	92	93, 94	95	96	97	98	99	100, 101, 102	23
1996	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	11
1997	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	14
1998													1
1999													

Figure. Patient diary recording the number of migrainous visual episodes experienced over a 15-year period. Between 1991 and 1993, the handwriting becomes progressively more micrographic.

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