Teaching Video NeuroImages: Excessive grinning in Wilson disease

R.S. Cetlin, MD
G.R. Rodrigues, MD
M.A. Pena-Pereira, MD
D.S. Oliveira, MD
C.P. Souza, MD
V. Tumas, MD, PhD

Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. Vitor Tumas, Department of Neurosciences and Behavior Sciences, Ribeirão Preto School of Medicine—University of São Paulo, Campus Universitário Monte Alegre, Ribeirão Preto—SP, Brazil 14048-900
tumasv@rnp.fmrp.usp.br

Figure (A, B) Excessive grinning, (C) Kayser-Fleischer ring, (D) “face of giant panda” sign and basal ganglia T2 hyperintensity

A 19-year-old man presented with a 3-month history of excessive grinning. Examination revealed unrestrained grinning and mild symmetric parkinsonism. Wilson disease was suspected and confirmed by the presence of Kayser-Fleischer ring (figure), suggestive brain MRI (figure), low ceruloplasmin, and high urinary copper levels.

Wilson disease is a disorder of copper metabolism characterized by hepatic impairment and movement disorders. Typical facial manifestations, although not pathognomonic, include excessive grinning, in which the patient grins to trivial stimuli,¹ as demonstrated in this report; sustained open-mouth smile, when a par-

kinsonian face is associated with a dystonic dropped jaw (sometimes referred to as “vacuous smile”)²; and fixed forced smile, when facial dystonia produces a sustained spasm of risorius and zygomaticus muscles (also referred to as “risus sardonicus”).

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From the Department of Neuroscience (R.S.C., M.A.P.-P., D.S.O., V.T.) and Movement Disorders Clinic (G.R.R., C.P.S.), School of Medicine of Ribeirão Preto, University of São Paulo, Brazil.

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