Teaching NeuroImages:

Primary progressive aphasia

PET demonstration

Sultan Tarlaci, MD
Recep Savaş, MD
Kenan Kocacelebi, MD

Address correspondence and
reprint requests to Dr. Sultan
Tarlaci, Ege Sağlık Hastanesi,
Department of Neurology, 1399
Sok No:25, Alsancak, İzmir,
Turkey
info@kuantumbeyin.com

Figure ^{18}F -FDG PET scan exhibiting marked focal hypometabolism in the left superior temporal, inferior parietal, and lateral thalamic regions

A 49-year-old right-handed woman without family history of neurodegenerative conditions was evaluated for fluency and naming difficulties that developed over 10 years. Neurologic examination was normal except for nonfluent dysphasia. Brain MRI was normal without focal cortical atrophy. Brain metabolic PET scan demonstrated left temporal hypofunction (figure).

Primary progressive aphasia (PPA) is a clinical syndrome that erodes speech and language. The case

was diagnosed logopenic variant of PPA because of word-finding difficulties and decreased output. Alzheimer disease and frontotemporal lobar degeneration are the most common etiologies.¹ Functional imaging may reveal hypometabolism even if structural imaging is normal.

REFERENCE

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From the Departments of Neurology (S.T.) and Radiology (K.K.), Ege Sağlık Hastanesi, İzmir; and Department of Radiology (R.S.), Ege University, İzmir, Turkey.

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Sultan Tarlaci, Recep Savas and Kenan Kocacelebi

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