


NeuroImages

Polka music and semantic dementia
Bradley F. Boeve, MD, and Yonas E. Geda, MD, Rochester, MN

A man exhibited typical features of semantic dementia,\(^1\) with onset at age 52. At age 55, he became infatuated with polka music. He would sit in his car in the garage and listen to polka on the radio or on cassettes, often for as long as 12 to 18 hours. Whereas some may argue that enjoying polka music is in itself pathologic, we view this patient’s new appreciation of polka similar to that recently described with pop music in two patients with frontotemporal dementia.\(^2\) Thus, heterogeneity in musical taste is yet one more dimension bridging semantic dementia and frontotemporal dementia.


Figure. Representative T1-weighted coronal MRI at ages 53 (top row) and 55 (bottom row) are shown. Note progressive atrophy of the left amygdala and temporal cortex, and although a definitive causal relationship cannot be made, the right amygdala and temporal cortex atrophy has evolved in concert with the patient’s polka music obsession.
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