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. Functional imaging may reveal hypometabolism even if structural imaging is normal.

REFERENCE
Teaching NeuroImages: Primary progressive aphasia: PET demonstration

Sultan Tarlaci, Recep Savas and Kenan Kocacelebi

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