Transcortical motor aphasia and unilateral parkinsonism in a case of hyperostosis frontalis

Figure  CT and MRI of the brain

Arrows indicate a massive hyperostosis frontalis interna. FLAIR = fluid-attenuated inversion recovery.
A 75-year-old woman presented with speech disturbances, forgetfulness, and reduced energy for approximately 2 years. Spontaneous speech vanished 1 year later and was replaced by an exceptional vocalization (video on the Neurology® Web site at www.neurology.org).

Clinical features included transcortical motor aphasia (decreased spontaneous speech, naming, and writing abilities, with intact repetition and comprehension), moderate dementia, and right-sided parkinsonism (increased muscle tone, slight hand tremor, and supranuclear vertical gaze palsy). Neuroimaging showed a massive bifrontal hyperostosis (figure). 1-Dopa treatment worsened the vocalizations but improved right-sided parkinsonism whereas tiapride (100 mg per day) diminished the vocalizations and spontaneous speech improved without affecting the motor symptoms.

Stefan Brodoehl, MD, Carsten Klingner, MD, Hajo Mentzel, Karl-Jürgen Bär, MD

From the Departments of Neurology (S.B., C.K.) and Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (H.M., K.-J.B.), Jena University Hospital, Jena, Germany.

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Correspondence to Dr. Brodoehl: stefan.brodoehl@med.uni-jena.de


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