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.

Supplemental data at www.neurology.org
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). i-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.

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Author contributions: S. Brodoehl was responsible for the study concept, interpretation of the data, as well as drafting and revising the manuscript. C. Klingner contributed to drafting the manuscript. H. Mentzel contributed to drafting the manuscript and interpretation of the data. K.-J. Bär contributed to study concept, interpretation of the data, and drafting the manuscript. Acknowledgment: The authors thank the patient, who gave written permission to publish her case and picture. Study funding: No targeted funding reported. Disclosure: The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures. Correspondence to Dr. Brodoehl: stefan.brodoehl@med.uni-jena.de


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Stefan Brodoehl, Carsten Klingner, Hajo Mentzel, et al.
Neurology 2013;80;1536-1537
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e31828cf8b8

This information is current as of April 15, 2013

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