

ORGANIC MENTAL DISORDER AND TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY: CASE REPORT

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CASE PRESENTATION

Patient, 58 years old, admitted to a general hospital due to convulsive crises associated with persecutory delusions, aggression, dysphoric mood and behavioral disinhibition. History of epilepsy since adolescence of the complex partial type, which progressed to tonic clonic, refractory to the use of anticonvulsants. She presented specific behavioral changes (irritability, impulsivity, emotional lability) that initially occurred in the pre- and post-ictal period, which over the years evolved interictally. At the age of 35, diagnosed with left hippocampal sclerosis by imaging examination, she underwent amygdalohippocampectomy and left temporal lobectomy due to the refractoriness of the aforementioned symptoms. After stabilization of the current condition, the patient maintains a glyscroid attitude, retrograde anmesia and persecutory speech.

DISCUSSION

Temporal lobe epilepsy (TLE) is the most common form of epilepsy in adults, accounting for approximately 40% of cases. Typical crises are dysperceptive, which begin with auras characterized by ascending epigastric discomfort, autonomic or psychic symptoms (fear, déjà vu, mnesic contents with a strong emotional accent), followed by behavioral arrest, fixed gaze, and automatism, with progression being possible. for tonic clonic seizures. In TLE there is an association with interictal psychoses, reinforced by the presence of complex partial seizures, seizures

of limbic origin that may be comorbid with personality change, particularly when temporal lobe epilepsy is due to mesial sclerosis, if seizures are frequent. The concept of organic transformation of the TLE personality was called Gastaut Geschwind syndrome studied for its specific traits such as viscosity, hypergraphia, religiosity, hyposexuality and aggressiveness.

TLE is characterized by clinical refractoriness to antiepileptic drugs, especially when there is associated hippocampal sclerosis, resulting in the occurrence of organic mental disorder and organic personality transformation. Unilateral lobectomies are currently used successfully in the treatment of refractory epilepsies due to mesial temporal sclerosis.

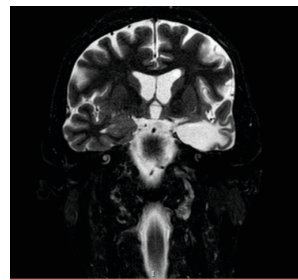


Figure 1: Magnetic resonance imaging of the skull after temporal lobectomy. Source: from the author (2022).

FINAL COMMENTS

Organic mental disorders are not uncommon disorders and although a history of previous epilepsy, such as the above, reminds us that we must always investigate organicity as the correct diagnosis and management of these patients can improve control of symptoms and outcome of the disease.

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