



A 53-Year-Old Man with Visuospatial Disorientation and Mild Dementia

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Keywords

Parietal lobe atrophy; Visuospatial disorientation; Early-onset Alzheimer's disease

Clinical Image

A 53-year-old man whose grandfather had Alzheimer's disease (AD) presented with an 18 month history of memory problems. He often became lost when driving, which eventually led to his losing his job as a truck-driver. His IADL score was 12/16 (besides needing help with driving, he also needed assistance with meal preparation, shopping and managing finances). Neurologic examination was remarkable for poor recall, impaired visuospatial and attentional skills on MMSE, where he scored a total of 20/30. Brain MRI revealed moderate bi-parietal atrophy (Figure 1), but there was only mild mesial temporal atrophy (Figure 2). The parietal-dominant subtype of AD (18.4% of total) has been associated with more visuospatial and attentional complaints and is more common in early-onset AD patients (mean age of onset=57.1 yrs). This contrasts with the patterns of diffuse atrophy (47.4%) and mesial temporal atrophy (34.2%), which are more prevalent in later onset AD [1-3].

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Received Date: 03 May 2017

Accepted Date: 11 May 2017

Published Date: 18 May 2017

Citation:

Hershey LA, Koriesh A, Kapoor N. A 53-Year-Old Man with Visuospatial Disorientation and Mild Dementia. *J Neurosci Cogn Stud.* 2017; 1(1): 1001.

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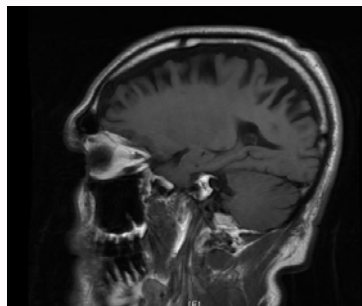


Figure 1: A T1 MRI image revealed moderate parietal atrophy.

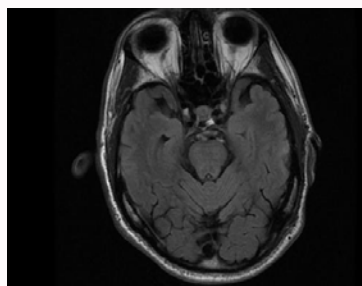


Figure 2: A T2 FLAIR image showed mild mesial temporal atrophy.

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