



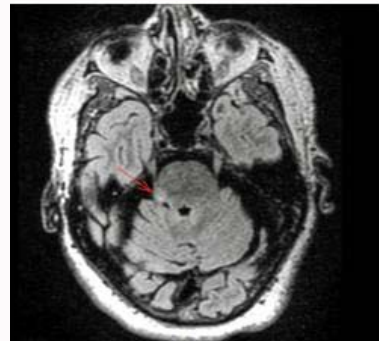
LOMS: A Differential Diagnosis of Trigeminal Neuralgia

Lucas Andre Greca*, Audred Cristina Biondo Eboni, Paulo Roberto Wille and Marcus Vinicius Magno Golcalves

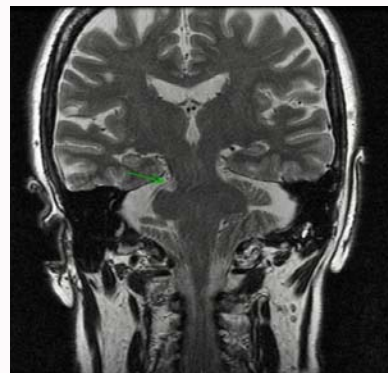
Department of Neurology, Medicine Joinville - Univille University, Brazil

Clinical Image

Late Onset Multiple Sclerosis (LOMS) is the designation given for patients with the first outbreak of the disease at or above the age of 50 years old. This group of patients is known to have a greater prevalence of primary progressive forms of the disease and usually represents a diagnostic challenge. This case report demonstrates that trigeminal neuralgia might be the red flag for suspicion of LOMS. A 65 year-old female with right-sided sharp and paroxysmal headache, lasting less than a minute each event, without autonomic signs and no other symptoms, underwent MRI for Trigeminal Neuralgia (TN) investigation (Figure 1). Images were not consistent with neuro-vascular compression, although, it revealed a demyelination pattern plaque suggestive for with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) at the pons, precisely at the right trigeminal nucleus. At follow up, MRI confirmed the suspected diagnosis of Late Onset Multiple Sclerosis (LOMS), which is the designation given for patients with the outbreak of MS at or above the age of 50 years old (Figure 2). LOMS patients are more likely to have primary progressive forms of the disease with faster progression to disability [1]. Thus, we suggest that physicians should always consider LOMS as the differential diagnosis of TN for patients above 50 years old. This may alert for earlier MS diagnosis and correct therapies for these patients.



Figures 1: MRI for Trigeminal Neuralgia (TN) investigation.



Figures 2: MRI confirmed the suspected diagnosis of Late Onset Multiple Sclerosis (LOMS).

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*Correspondence:

Lucas Andre Greca, Department of Neurology, Medicine Joinville - Univille University, Brazil,
E-mail: greca.lucas@gmail.com

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