VERY LATE ONSET OF OBSESSIVE – COMPULSIVE DISORDER: A CASE REPORT

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Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) is a common psychiatric disorder that usually begins in young age. Onset after 40 years old is unusual and termed late-onset OCD. In this report, we describe the case of a late-onset OCD in an 80-year old man without any specific focal brain structural abnormality.

Case Report: 80-years old man, with a clinical history of epilepsy, hypertension and dyslipidemia.

Discussion: Late-onset OCD typically develops after a significant period of subclinical symptoms. Stressful events are particularly important as they may precipitate the full clinical syndrome for the first time in old age. Other possible risk factors for late onset OCD are: female sex, co-occurrence of posttraumatic stress disorder after age 40 and a history of recent pregnancy in self or significant others. It is also important to rule out other non-psychiatric diagnoses, particularly dementias. Researches have hypothesized that dementia might be the end-point of some forms of late-onset OCD. Despite his age, our patient did not have any neurological symptoms or signs.

Conclusion: Although its rarity, psychiatrists should be aware of this diagnosis in elderly. The report of this cases could contribute to a better identification of clinical characteristics and additional risk factors.

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