

“WHIZZ! IT MOVES, BROOM! IT VIBRATES, FISST! IT STRETCHES”. CASE REPORT OF A BAILLARGER'S HIPOCHONDRIAC DELUSION IN A PATIENT WITH NEUROSYPHILIS.

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OBJECTIVES

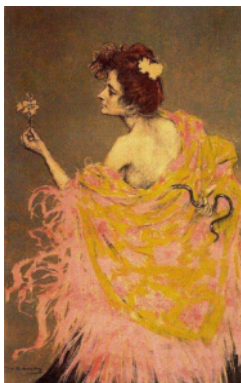
This study presents a case of an hypochondriac delusion in a patient with neurosyphilis

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Analysis of the medical history and review of the literature

RESULTS

A 63-year-old male patient with active alcoholism was admitted to the hospital with aggressive behaviors, confusional syndrome, memory disturbance and impaired balance. The patient was diagnosed with organic brain syndrome related to alcohol. He was later followed up by a neurologist because of a quick worsening of cognitive functions and neurosyphilis diagnosis was established by serum and CFR serological tests. After treatment with intravenous penicillin the patient presented a cognitive and behavioral improvement but remained having sensitive ataxia, hypoesthesia, diminished vibratory perception and reflexes, pricking sensation and burning pains consistent with Tabes dorsalis. A year after, the patient started with somatic and passivity delusions with cenesthesical hallucinations. He described that he could travel within his body observing his brain becoming independent and conducting a war against his body: “ virus leave my brain through the top of my skull, they get me drunk, remove nicotine, my brain moves within the skull, commands me, provokes me pain, makes my organs shift and vibrate, stretches my stomach, manipulates my anus”



CONCLUSIONS

Neurosyphilis has become an unusual disease entity thanks to early treatment . The main psychiatric forms include expansive states with grandiose delusions and depressive forms. Baillarger (1,2)described in 1869 hypochondriac delusions poorly systematized, childish, absurd and grotesque, variable and easily suggestible, within the framework of syphilitic dementia. It was postulated that delusion could be related to a reinterpretation by the patient of proprioceptive dysfunction caused by syphilitic mielopathy's damages.



REFERENCES

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