Acta Scientific Neurology (ISSN: 2582-1121)

Volume 6 Issue 4 April 2023

Clinical Image

Neurofibromas: Associated with Cognitive Decline

Mathur M* and Rajbongshi P

[1]MBBS, Post Grad Diploma (UK), Ph.D. Neurosciences (UK), Associate Member of The Royal College of Physicians, London, Member of American Academy of Neurology, Consultant Neurologist, GNRC Hospitals, Assam, India

[2]MBBS, Resident Medical Officer, GNRC Hospitals, Assam, India

***Corresponding Author:** Mathur M, MBBS, Post Grad Diploma (UK), Ph.D. Neurosciences (UK), Associate Member of The Royal College of Physicians, London, Member of American Academy of Neurology, Consultant Neurologist, GNRC Hospitals, Assam, India.

Received: September 03, 2022

Published: March 10, 2023

Introduction

Neurofibromatosis (NF) is associated with a broad range of relatively nonspecific cognitive impairments, such as, low IQ, learning disabilities, and behavioural changes. While in the past, studies demonstrated the cognitive phenotype of NF resembles that of nonverbal learning disabilities, in contrast, recent research has found that the impairments are broader and do not corelate with the nonverbal disabilities as such [1]. There is some evidence that neuropsychological impairment may be correlated but this theory has not been consistently supported. Moreover, NF is a common inherited autosomal dominant condition, characterised by multiple café-au-lait macules, axillary and/or inguinal freckling, iris Lisch nodules and tumours of the nervous system such as neurofibromas and optic pathway gliomas. Here, we present a clinical outpatient 33-year-old female with a sharp decline in cognition followed by multiple fibromas. On examination, café-au-lait spots were absent with slight axillary freckings observed. Furthermore, no changes in the vision was attributed but a decline in cognition was present. As reported, the patient observed a decline in remembering appointments and frequent forgetfulness. Additionally, there was a sense of confusion and was sometimes disoriented to place and time.

Moving ahead, we conducted investigations such as, MRI of the brain with specific blood parameters. The results documented no significant changes in the brain apart from brain atrophy and the bloods were within normal limits. We explained the further consequences of NF to the patient and family, with further reference to insight for any surgical involvement for the fibromas.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

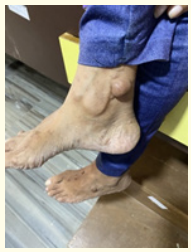

Figure 1-3: Demonstrates classic neurofibromas in a 33-year-old female patient, following the development of fibromas the patient experienced cognitive decline.

Conclusion

In conclusion, early diagnosis is essential with regular follow up, next we could have assessed the genetic background and studies to differentiate between types of NF or MEN syndromes.

Bibliography

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