Other

SPORADIC OLIVOPONTOCEREBELLAR ATROPHY (OPCA) : A CASE REPORT

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Introduction: Olivopontocerebellar atrophy (OPCA) is a neurodegenerative syndrome characterized by prominent cerebellar and extrapyramidal signs, dysarthria, and dysphagia. OPCA has been classified based on clinical, genetic, and neuropathological findings and there is significant controversy and confusion in the medical literature because of its association with two distinct groups of disorders, specifically multiple system atrophy (MSA) and spinocerebellar ataxia (SCA). Case report: We report the case of a 54-year-old male that initially developed dysarthria and gait disturbance and frequent falls at the age of 25 and subsequently presented with progressive neurologic signs and symptoms,including urinary incontinence,fatigue,trouble with sleep,muscle spasms,dysphagia and dementia. A routine MRI of the brain was performed and high-resolution images were taken through the entire posterior fossa which showed prominent widening of the CSF spaces in the posterior fossa, cerebellar atrophy and reduction in the size of the pons- "hot cross bun sign"- consistent with a diagnosis of OPCA. Conclusion : Olivopontocerebellar atrophy is challenging condition to diagnose on a clinical basis, and hence requires corroboration of clinical and physical examination findings with radiologic findings. MRI of the brain is the gold standard in assessing OPCA and is an extremely valuable imaging modality in distinguishing OPCA from other neurological disorders and allows for the precise determination of OPCA subtypes.