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NeuroImages

Progressive micrographia in a migraineur

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In September 1998, a 68-year-old man was evaluated for possible PD. His only symptom was "slowing up a bit" over recent months. His medical history was unremarkable except for a long record of intermittent episodes of visual scintillations, which had been diagnosed as acephalgic migraine. The patient had kept a careful record of the number of these episodes over a 15-year time period (figure).

The figure suggests three possible diagnoses: PD (acquired micrographia); migraine (episodic visual episodes over a 15-year period); and obsessive-compulsive personality disorder.

The figure illustrates the value of examining a patient's handwritten personal records as part of the neurologic examination. In addition, the finding of isolated acquired micrographia may help identify otherwise asymptomatic patients with PD and allow early institution of neuroprotective therapy.

MONTH	VISION EPISODES BY NUMBER												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1983	1	2,3		4									4
1984		5							6		7	8	4
1985	9		10	11			12				13	14	6
1986	$\frac{15}{16}$					17					18		4
1987								19					1
1988	NONE												-
1989			20		21			22					3
1990			$\frac{23}{24}$ $\frac{25}{24}$			$\frac{26}{27}$ $\frac{28}{27}$					$\frac{29}{31}$ $\frac{30}{31}$		10
1991						$\frac{32}{34}$ $\frac{35}{34}$			36	37	38	$\frac{39}{40}$ $\frac{41}{40}$	10
1992	$\frac{42}{41}$ $\frac{43}{41}$			$\frac{44}{45}$ $\frac{46}{45}$	$\frac{47}{48}$ $\frac{49}{48}$	$\frac{50}{51}$ $\frac{52}{51}$	$\frac{53}{54}$ $\frac{55}{54}$	$\frac{56}{57}$ $\frac{58}{57}$	4			$\frac{59}{60}$ $\frac{61}{60}$	26
1993	$\frac{62}{61}$ $\frac{63}{61}$		$\frac{64}{65}$ $\frac{66}{65}$	$\frac{67}{68}$ $\frac{69}{68}$	$\frac{70}{71}$ $\frac{72}{71}$	$\frac{73}{74}$ $\frac{75}{74}$	$\frac{76}{77}$ $\frac{78}{77}$		$\frac{79}{80}$ $\frac{81}{80}$	$\frac{82}{83}$ $\frac{84}{83}$	$\frac{85}{86}$ $\frac{87}{86}$	$\frac{88}{89}$ $\frac{90}{89}$	11
1994	$\frac{91}{92}$ $\frac{93}{92}$	$\frac{94}{95}$ $\frac{96}{95}$	$\frac{97}{98}$ $\frac{99}{98}$	$\frac{100}{101}$ $\frac{102}{101}$	$\frac{103}{104}$ $\frac{105}{104}$	$\frac{106}{107}$ $\frac{108}{107}$	$\frac{109}{110}$ $\frac{111}{110}$	$\frac{112}{113}$ $\frac{114}{113}$	$\frac{115}{116}$ $\frac{117}{116}$	$\frac{118}{119}$ $\frac{120}{119}$	$\frac{121}{122}$ $\frac{123}{122}$	$\frac{124}{125}$ $\frac{126}{125}$	23
1995	$\frac{127}{128}$ $\frac{129}{128}$	$\frac{130}{131}$ $\frac{132}{131}$	$\frac{133}{134}$ $\frac{135}{134}$	$\frac{136}{137}$ $\frac{138}{137}$	$\frac{139}{140}$ $\frac{141}{140}$	$\frac{142}{143}$ $\frac{144}{143}$	$\frac{145}{146}$ $\frac{147}{146}$	$\frac{148}{149}$ $\frac{150}{149}$	$\frac{151}{152}$ $\frac{153}{152}$	$\frac{154}{155}$ $\frac{156}{155}$	$\frac{157}{158}$ $\frac{159}{158}$	$\frac{160}{161}$ $\frac{162}{161}$	11
1996	$\frac{163}{164}$ $\frac{165}{164}$	$\frac{166}{167}$ $\frac{168}{167}$	$\frac{169}{170}$ $\frac{171}{170}$	$\frac{172}{173}$ $\frac{174}{173}$	$\frac{175}{176}$ $\frac{177}{176}$	$\frac{178}{179}$ $\frac{180}{179}$	$\frac{181}{182}$ $\frac{183}{182}$	$\frac{184}{185}$ $\frac{186}{185}$	$\frac{187}{188}$ $\frac{189}{188}$	$\frac{190}{191}$ $\frac{192}{191}$	$\frac{193}{194}$ $\frac{195}{194}$	$\frac{196}{197}$ $\frac{198}{197}$	14
1997	$\frac{199}{200}$ $\frac{201}{200}$	$\frac{202}{203}$ $\frac{204}{203}$	$\frac{205}{206}$ $\frac{207}{206}$	$\frac{208}{209}$ $\frac{210}{209}$	$\frac{211}{212}$ $\frac{213}{212}$	$\frac{214}{215}$ $\frac{216}{215}$	$\frac{217}{218}$ $\frac{219}{218}$	$\frac{220}{221}$ $\frac{222}{221}$	$\frac{223}{224}$ $\frac{225}{224}$	$\frac{226}{227}$ $\frac{228}{227}$	$\frac{229}{230}$ $\frac{231}{230}$	$\frac{232}{233}$ $\frac{234}{233}$	1
1998													1
1999													

Figure. Patient diary recording the number of migrainous visual episodes experienced over a 15-year period. Between 1991 and 1993, the handwriting becomes progressively more micrographic.

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