

Characteristics of psychosis in sporadic frontotemporal dementia

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State of the art: The characteristics of psychosis in sporadic frontotemporal dementia (FTD) remain to be unclear.

Methodology: Data of patients with mild stage of FTD with psychosis (FTD-P) and those with very-late onset schizophrenia like psychosis (VLOSLP) were collected from our database. Robust z-scores for age, Addenbrooke's Cognitive Examination- III (ACE- III) scores, and Neuropsychiatric Inventory (NPI) scores of patients with FTD-P were calculated using data of patients with VLOSLP as reference.

Results: Two patients with FTD-P (Case 1 was a 56 year-old male with behavioral variant FTD, and Case 2 was a 67 year-old female with semantic dementia) in 15 mild FTD and 54 patients with VLOSLP (79.0±7.0 years, percentage of female was 85.2%) were enrolled. The z-scores for verbal fluency and language scores of ACE-III were below -2 in Case 1 and 2. The z-score for NPI total score was above 2 in Case 1 and 2. Case 1 said “the stuffed animals speak to me” and “a gangster left me food”. Although he had delusion of theft, this complaint was mild and he was rather euphoric. Case 2 had no delusion and had visual hallucinations. She said “I can see the stuffed animals, and they make me feel better”. She was also euphoric and apathetic. On the other hand, delusion of persecution (55.5%), delusion of theft (44.4%), and auditory hallucinations (44.4%) were prevalent in VLOSLP.

Conclusion: The contents of psychosis in FTD may be euphoric and may differ from paranoia characteristics of VLOSLP.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest associated with this presentation.