

The `face of the giant panda` in a purely neuropsychiatric presentation of Wilson`s disease

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38 year old male referred by his GP with 6 months history of progressive ataxia, changes in his demeanour, and tremor. The neurological examination revealed fine bilateral hand and leg tremor, side to side head tremor, finger nose hypermetry, dysdiadochokinesis and choreiform tongue movements. On the Addenbrooke`s cognitive test he showed marked deficits in memory and visual-spatial skills. Ophthalmic examination revealed Kayser–Fleischer rings. The brain MRI depicted extensive symmetrical high signal changes involving the corticospinal tracks at the level of the basal ganglia extending to the brainstem. Furthermore diffuse signal abnormalities were noted, affecting the cerebellar white matter, the midbrain, pons and thalami. As seen on the MRI the red nucleus and substantia nigra produce lower signal compared to the surrounding tissue forming `the face of the Panda`, as seen in less than 3% of the neuropsychiatric presentations. A challenging diagnosis as the patient presented in his late thirties without any hepatic involvement. It is highly didactic as it teaches the importance of broad differential and the need for early recognition of possible reversible causes. Prompt involvement of the Neuro-Radiology MDT and Discussion in Grand rounds is always beneficial towards achieving correct diagnosis.