ADULT EPILEPSY ASSOCIATED WITH HYPOTHALAMIC HAMARTOMA

J. Kruja[1], S. Mijo[1], G. Vreto[2]
[1]*UHC Mother Theresa, University Neurology Service, Tirana, Albania*
[2]*UHC Mother Theresa, University Imaging Service, Tirana, Albania*
jkruja@gmail.com

Introduction: Epilepsy in adult patients with Hypothalamic Hamartoma (HH) is a rare condition and not well studied. Gelastic seizures have been classically related to HH.
We are presenting a case report of a 31 years old female. The first seizure start at age of 21 with sudden laughs without a reason, with later tonic - clonic generalization and postictal confusion repeated after two months.
After six months she had seizures with a nervous giggle of which she was aware, not associated with mirth, sometimes she had unconsciousness swallowing with oral and limb automatisms followed by postictal confusion lasting up to 15 minutes.
She had daily complex partial seizures and two secondary generalized seizures per year at the beginning.
MRI revealed left hypothalamic hypo intense mass lesion in T1 (compatible to hamartoma), 5mm x 5mm in diameter with no enhancement after gadolinium infusion. Interictal EEG: show bilateral frontal - temporal spikes and sharp waves with almost normal background activity.
The patient is under treatment with carbamazepine 600 mg. Her main seizure type now comprises brief feelings of an urge to laugh sometimes with oral and limb automatisms several times per year. No secondary generalized seizures were presented since the beginning of the treatment. She has a normal life and she had a twin pregnancy about two years ago.
Conclusion: The late onset of epilepsy in patients with HH appears to be associated with a milder epilepsy syndrome, with good control by AEDs.