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DEMENTIA IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE: CASE REPORT

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Introduction: Parkinson's disease (PD) dementia is a rapidly growing global health problem. Dementia in PD is often accompanied with neuropsychiatric manifestations, such as depression, insomnia, visual hallucinations and psychomotor agitation, which need psychiatric attention.

Objectives: The authors' aim is to report a case of a 76-year-old female suffering from PD who was admitted to the psychiatric ward exhibiting neuropsychiatric symptoms. A literature's review about PD dementia was also made.

Case report: Patient had one psychiatric hospitalization at age 41, due to depressive symptoms. PD diagnose was made at age 65 and initially responded well to levodopa. Over the subsequent years, motor fluctuations and dyskinesias as well as autonomic, cognitive and psychological symptoms gradually developed. At 75 years, patient's family stated that she had been more forgetful, impulsive, showing signs of anxiety and dysphoria. She was hospitalized exhibiting psychomotor agitation, disorientation, insomnia and mainly nocturnal visual hallucinations with persons. Diagnostic testing included: cranial tomography which showed mild generalized atrophy but no other structural cause of her symptoms; laboratory tests with B12, folic acid, thyroid function; syphilis detection test and examinations of serum and urine were normal. The MMSE scored 19. Attention deficits and constructional apraxia were present in clock drawing test. Treatment was initiated with memantine and a low dose of quetiapine. She was discharged after 20 days with improvement of neuropsychiatric symptoms.

Conclusions: Early diagnosis and treatment of dementia in PD may prevent psychiatric hospitalization and avoid patient's and family's distress.