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DELUSIONS AND HALLUCINATIONS AS FIRST SYMPTOMS OF FRONTOTEMPORAL DEMENTIA: A CASE REPORT OF A 48-YEAR OLD MALE

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Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) generally has a presenile onset, behavioral manifestations dominate the clinical picture during which cognitive functions are still relatively intact. Therefore, particularly in the early stages of FTD it is difficult to differentiate this type of dementia from other types of dementia and psychiatric disorders.

Although most patients with frontotemporal dementia (FTD) present with neuropsychiatric symptoms, the frequency of psychotic symptoms, assumed to be rare, is still unclear possibly due to limited temporal-limbic involvement in this disorder. We report the case of a 48-year old man admitted in a psychiatric ward with delusions and hallucinations.

Significant behavior impairment was present related to social isolation and personality changes. Structural and functional neuroimaging methods disclosed asymmetric frontal and bitemporal damage, mainly on the left. Differential diagnosis consisted of psychotic disorders as well as one of the subtypes of the frontotemporal lobar degeneration group.