Klüver-Bucy syndrome secondary to medulloblastoma metastasis

Dear Editor:

We describe the case of a 33-year-old male with a history of medulloblastoma diagnosed at age 29, treated at the time with surgical resection, cranial and neuraxis radiation therapy and chemotherapy. Four years later, he began to manifest a hypersexual behaviour, hyperorality, disinhibition and placidity; he was taken to the emergency department for impaired alertness. On admission, he was sleepy, with abulia and psychomotor agitation, uninhibited, with delusional and manic ideas and bilateral papilledema; the remainder without alterations. The imaging study showed two symmetrical lesions in the anterior temporal pole, with uptake of contrast medium. They were removed in two surgical procedures; the histopathological study led to the diagnosis of temporal metastases of medulloblastoma (fig. 1). He suffered a remission of neuropsychiatric symptoms.

Heinrich Klüver and Paul Bucy described behavioural changes that could be generated in monkeys by performing bilateral temporal lobectomy. The first case of Klüver-Bucy syndrome (KBS) in humans was published in 1947. The most important symptoms of human KBS are visual agnosia, placidity, emotional numbing, increased sexual activity, hyper-metamorphopsia, increased oral behaviour and bulimia.

Numerous causes of KBS have been described. The most frequently associated causes are traumatic injuries, epilepsy and infections of the central nervous system, especially with temporal lobe involvement, although there are cases of degenerative, vascular and metabolic lesions. A rare manifestation of tumour lesions, there are only two cases documented in the literature, one with bilateral temporal oligodendroglioma and another with bitemporal arachnoid cyst. To our knowledge, there is no other case of KBS caused by bitemporal metastases of medulloblastoma in the literature.

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References


Figure 1  Bilateral metastases of medulloblastoma.