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Title	Fahr's disease: about 2 family cases revealed by psychiatric disorders
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INTRODUCTION

Fahr disease is a rare entity. It combines cerebral calcification with no identified cause and various clinical signs, including abnormal movements, psychiatric syndrome, cognitive impairment, cerebellar syndrome, and epilepsy.

We report the case of 2 patients with Fahr's disease revealed by psychiatric disorders.

AIM

We report the clinical and paraclinical characteristics of Fahr's disease.

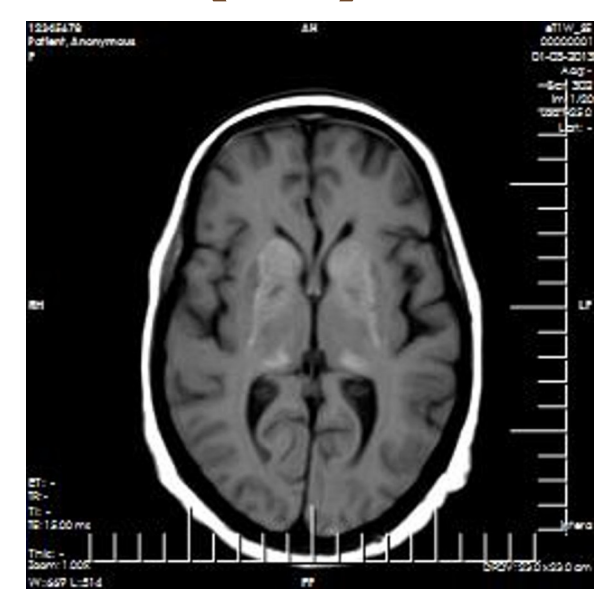
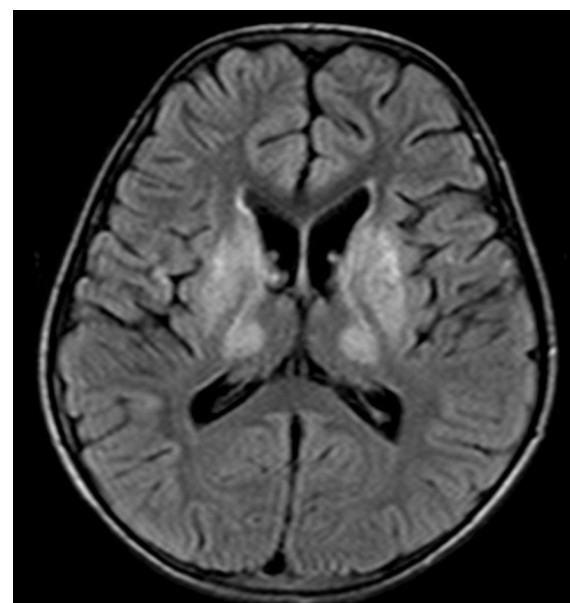
METHODS

Description of 2 cases of a brother and a sister

RESULTS (1)

This concerns a brother and a sister, successively aged 26 and 21, from a consanguineous marriage and with a personal history of school difficulties at the age of 6 years for the brother and epileptic seizures for the sister, referred for psychiatric disorders such as delusions, auditory hallucinations and aggression. Neurologic examination in the 2 patients showed cognitive impairment, quadripysramidal syndrome in both, and dyskinesias only for the brother.

RESULTS (2)



Brain MRI performed in the 2 patients showed bilateral and symmetric calcifications of the basal ganglia. Phosphocalcium and parathyroid hormone measurements were normal.

The sister was put on Dépakine. Both patients were switched to Haloperidol for psychiatric disorders with a good response to treatment.

DISCUSSION

Fahr syndrome, most often associated with disturbances of phosphocalcic metabolism, must be dissociated from Fahr disease, called idiopathic, of genetic or sporadic cause. Prevalence of Fahr syndrome is 0.5%. The correlation between the extent of calcification and clinical severity is assumed but not proven.

CONCLUSION

Fahr's disease is an uncommon entity. Clinical and radiological data are used to make the etiological diagnosis. This must always be kept in mind when dealing with a combination of psychiatric disorders, seizures and abnormal movements. The familial form is confirmed by genetic testing.

REFERENCES

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