Huge intracranial tumors mimicking Alzheimer’s disease

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Background & Significance: Whereas Alzheimer’s disease (AD) is degenerative disease and its clinical symptoms present with insidious onset and slow deterioration, symptomatatic secondary dementia can also present slow progression of clinical symptoms mimicking AD.

Case: A 73-year-old female presented with memory impairment for 2-3 years. Her symptoms progressed slowly and she could not maintain her daily routine activities by herself. Neurologic examination revealed no focal deficits, but extensive neuropsychology evaluation showed decreased attention, language, visuospatial, memory and executive functions as seen in patients with AD. Brain MRI revealed a huge meningioma compressing bilateral mesial frontal lobes and a bone tumor (cavernous hemangioma) on right anterior cranial fossa. She was referred to a neurosurgeon for surgical removal.

Comments: We report a case of slowly progressing memory impairment mimicking AD caused by huge intracranial tumors.