A CASE OF HASHIMOTO'S THYROIDITIS INITIALLY PRESENTING AS TRANSIENT GLOBAL AMNESIA

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Background: Transient global amnesia (TGA) is a rare syndrome characterized by an acute and transient loss of anterograde and recent retrograde memory, with preservation of alertness, attention and self-identity. The pathophysiology of TGA is unclear and the cerebrovascular etiology of TGA is still controversial.

Case report: A 62-year-old right-handed man was referred to our hospital because of transient memory disturbance. At home, he suddenly complained of memory impairment and repeatedly asked his family same questions with preserved consciousness and self-awareness. During visiting nearest primary hospital, he suffered anterograde amnesia for 5 hours. His past medical history was only significant for smoking. Initial routine laboratory findings and brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) including diffusion-weighted imaging (DWI) were not remarkable on that day. But, he referred to our hospital right away for further evaluation and treatment. In our hospital, additional EEG, brain perfusion SPECT, transcranial dopper, neuropsychological testing, cardiologic and metabolic work-up and follow-up DWI MRI with T2 fluid-attenuated inversion recovery (FLAIR) sequence performed. Most of them were not also remarkable except thyroid function test and DWI MRI. Thyroid function test showed high thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) level (TSH: 42.32 uIU/mL) and bilateral tiny hippocampal ischemic lesions observed only on follow-up DWI MRI. Thyroid autoantibodies were also extremely increased (thyroglobulin Ab: 1140.62 IU/mL and microsomal Ab: 1461.25 IU/mL), so he could be diagnosed as Hashimoto`s thyroiditis.

Conclusions: We report a patient with Hashimoto's thyroiditis that manifested as sudden onset TGA. TGA can be an initial manifestation of Hashimoto's thyroiditis, and thyroid disease should be considered as etiology of TGA.