A Case Report of Temporal Lobe Epilepsy with Manifestation of Jamais Vu

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ABSTRACT

Dreamy state is a transient alteration of mental state in which consciousness is preoccupied with an intrusive sensation or perception. The phenomenology is heterogeneous and subjective and includes déjà vu, jamais vu, reminiscence of memories, emotional change, and hallucinations. Dreamy state is known to be related to temporal lobe epilepsy, but the above-mentioned symptoms are usually noted in psychiatric disorders. Herein we report a case involving a 17-year-old male suffering from frequent sense of strangeness who was diagnosed as having temporal lobe epilepsy. His symptoms were resistant to anticonvulsants, and electroencephalography revealed no positive findings. Due to the atypical presentation of his epilepsy, his illness needs to be differentially diagnosed from possible mental disorder. This case report highlights the possibility that epilepsy can manifest with symptoms of mental disorder, and postulated possible factors of psychogenic non-epileptic seizure. The mental condition of this case suggested the need for further investigation and additional assessment by a psychiatrist.

Key words: Dreamy state, Temporal lobe epilepsy, Jamais vu, Psychogenic Non-epileptic seizure

Introduction

The term “dreamy state”, first described by Hug-hlings-Jackson in 1876, was defined as a transient alteration of consciousness in epileptic subjects. During this state, patients are vaguely aware of ongoing events (one consciousness), but are preoccupied with the intrusive sensation or perception (a second consciousness). Other descriptions for this state have included intellectual aura, double consciousness, and mental diplopia.

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