THINK AGAIN
THINK NP-C

Talk NP-C

Organic Psychosis

is a key symptom of Niemann-Pick type C disease

Organic psychosis may manifest itself in patients with **Niemann-Pick type C (NP-C)** as paranoid delusions, hallucinations, delusional ideation, disturbance with aggression, self-mutilation or social isolation.[1–3] These symptoms will often lead to a psychiatric diagnosis which is only re-assessed as other features of NP-C that do not fit within the original psychiatric diagnosis, begin to appear. These symptoms include ataxia, eye movement abnormalities and problems with swallowing.[1]

How you might hear psychosis described...

Listen out!

- He experiences delusions
- His short-term memory has got worse
- I get angry for no reason
- She keeps asking the same question over and over again
- Sometimes she gets confused and doesn't know where she is
- I'm very anxious
- It's like she has Alzheimer's
- Sometimes it's like she is disconnected from reality

Patient Insight

"We used to think that Charlie had anger issues. He would very quickly become annoyed and aggressive for no apparent reason – we could see that he was frustrated. One of the things he used to struggle with is sleeping. He just couldn't seem to sleep through the night and we would find him pacing up and down the hallway. After seeing a psychiatrist, we received a diagnosis of bipolar depression.

It was only when Charlie started to have problems concentrating his eye movements that the doctors reviewed his psychiatric diagnosis."

Healthcare Professional Insight

"Psychiatric symptoms of NP-C most commonly present in early adulthood. Without the presentation of visceral symptoms, organic psychosis can quite easily lead to a psychiatric diagnosis.

It is important that neurologists and psychiatrists link the visceral, neurological and psychiatric symptoms that a patient might present with in order to reach a fast and differential diagnosis of NP-C."

What is Niemann-Pick Type C Disease?

Niemann-Pick type C disease (NP-C) is a rare, progressive, irreversible and chronically debilitating lysosomal storage disease[2] with an incidence of approximately 1 in 90,000 live births.[4] It is an inherited condition and can present at any age, affecting infants, children, adolescents and adults.

NP-C is commonly undetected or misdiagnosed. This is often due to its highly variable clinical presentation, characterised by a wide range of symptoms like organic psychosis, that individually, are not specific to the disease.[1,3,5]

References

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2. Vanier, M. Niemann-Pick disease type C. *Orphanet J Rare Dis* 2010; **5**: 16.
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4. Wassif C, Cross J, Iben J, *et al.* High incidence of unrecognized visceral/neurological late-onset Niemann-Pick disease, type C1, predicted by analysis of massively parallel sequencing data sets. *Genet Med* 2016; **18**(1): 41–48.
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For more information about where to refer patients suspected of having NP-C go to www.think-npc.com

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