Frontal encephalocele in a middle-aged woman with first seizure

Smells like a seizure to me

A 48-year-old woman with a history only of chronic sinus symptoms presented with her first seizure. Coworkers witnessed a staring spell and speech interruption for approximately 30 seconds followed by a generalized convulsion lasting 2 minutes. After brief postictal confusion, her neurologic examination was normal. Laboratory studies showed no abnormalities. There were no identifiable provoking factors such as infection or sleep deprivation. Noncontrast head CT (figure, A) revealed soft-tissue density in the right nasal cavity and sphenoid, ethmoid, and maxillary sinuses, thought to represent a skull base tumor. An MRI study (figure, B–D) demonstrated a large frontal encephalocele and dysplasia in both inferior frontal lobes. EEG showed intermittent bifrontal rhythmic delta activity. Developmental abnormalities such as encephalocele can present in adulthood as epilepsy that often may be corrected by surgical intervention.1,2

James F. Morley, MD, PhD, Dennis L. Kolson, MD, PhD, Philadelphia, PA.

Disclosure: The authors report no conflicts of interest.

Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. James Morley, Department of Neurology, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, 3600 Spruce Street, 3 Gates Building, Philadelphia, PA 19104; morleyj@uphs.upenn.edu


Frontal encephalocele in a middle-aged woman with first seizure: Smells like a seizure to me
James F. Morley and Dennis L. Kolson
Neurology 2008;70;157
DOI 10.1212/01.wnl.0000296822.59839.38

This information is current as of January 7, 2008