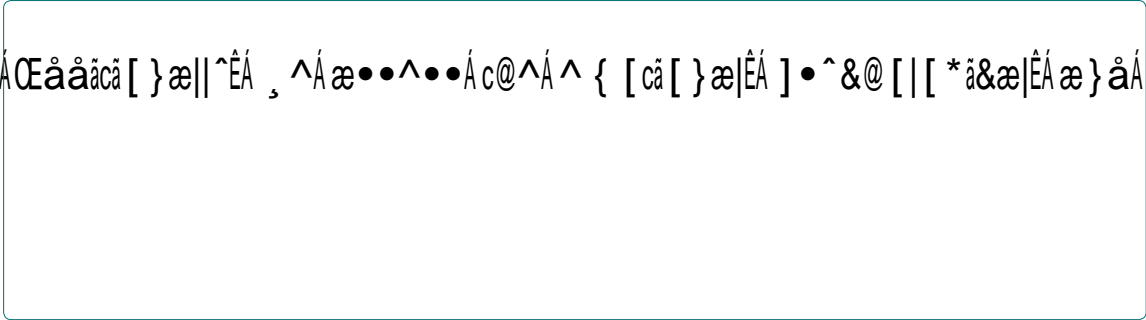


The Role of Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD) in Early-Onset Neurodegeneration: Clinical Features and Family Impact

Is often misdiagnosed as psychiatric illness due to its early behavioral

features.

Abstract



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These results of this study highlight the distinctive early-onset manifestations of FTD and the profound impact these have on both patients and their families. Disinhibition, apathy, and impaired executive function are common in early stages, contributing to significant challenges in everyday functioning and social interaction.

This study supports existing literature that suggests bvFTD may be initially mistaken for psychiatric conditions due to the overlap in behavioral symptoms, leading to delays in diagnosis and care. The prevalence of language deficits in the PPA subtype further emphasizes the variability in clinical presentation. This heterogeneity in symptoms can make diagnosis more complex and underscores the importance of specialized neuropsychological and neuroimaging assessments for accurate identification of FTD. Early diagnosis is crucial, as it enables appropriate management strategies to be implemented, delaying the progression of symptoms and potentially improving the patient's quality of life. The substantial family impact observed in this study is consistent with previous findings, which demonstrate the emotional and financial burdens placed on caregivers. The stress of caregiving can exacerbate mental health issues, leading to depression and anxiety, and the need for respite care is evident. Our findings also align with the notion that social isolation is a frequent consequence of caregiving in neurodegenerative diseases, as families often withdraw from social activities due to the stigma surrounding the patient's behavior. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-disciplinary approach, including early intervention, family support programs, and education to manage both the clinical and emotional aspects of FTD.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study emphasizes the importance of early recognition of frontotemporal dementia (FTD) in younger individuals, highlighting the unique clinical features of early-onset cases, including behavioral changes and language deficits. Accurate diagnosis, often

aided by neuroimaging and neuropsychological testing, is critical for ensuring timely interventions and improving patient outcomes. The significant emotional, social, and financial burdens placed on families and caregivers underscore the need for comprehensive support systems. Caregiver well-being must be prioritized to mitigate the psychological toll of managing such a complex and progressive condition. Further research is needed to develop targeted treatments for FTD and to explore interventions that address the needs of both patients and their families. As awareness of FTD grows, early interventions, including behavioral therapies, pharmacological treatments, and caregiver education, can alleviate some of the strain associated with this devastating condition. Ultimately, improved support for patients and caregivers can enhance quality of life and delay the disease's progression.

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