Idiopathic hypertrophic pachymeningitis in an elderly man
Eiffel-by-night sign

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A 71-year-old hypertensive male who was an active smoker (IPA 51) was admitted to the emergency room due to progressively decreasing bilateral eyesight to the point of bilateral amaurosis, without ocular pain. This was associated with a chronic bilateral pulsatile frontal headache. A brain NMR showed diffuse meningeal thickening related to pachymeningitis. A meningeal biopsy showed pachymeninge. Neoplastic, infectious and autoimmune causes were ruled out; therefore, it was considered to be idiopathic hypertrophic pachymeningitis (IHP).

Hypertrophic pachymeningitis is a rare clinical entity characterized by localized or diffuse thickening of the dura mater, with or without associated inflammation. It causes progressive neurological deficit due to compression of the adjacent structures (1).

Headache is the most common initial symptom, followed by ophthalmological symptoms such as vision loss and diplopia (2).

Its etiology is multifactorial. Dural thickening in the posterior cranial fossa, mimicking the Eiffel Tower illuminated at night (Eiffel-by-night sign), is found on imaging studies.

References