CASE 1991-7

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CLINICAL ABSTRACT

Three weeks prior to hospital admission, this previously well 36 year-old man was noted to have a temporal lobe seizure. At the onset of this episode he was observed to become suddenly vague, his face was contorted and he was unable to speak. He subsequently became unconscious for approximately a half hour. He presented to a small regional hospital where a CT scan revealed an abnormality involving the left temporal lobe. He was then referred to a larger center for Magnetic Resonance Imaging and neurosurgical assessment.

On examination there were no neurological abnormalities. General physical examination was also unremarkable.

MRI showed a lesion in the anterior aspect of the left temporal lobe, extending medially to involve the parahippocampal gyrus and uncus and exerting mass effect on the left cerebral peduncle. Laterally it extended to the surface of the temporal lobe. Abnormal resonance was also seen in the left insula and inferior aspect of the basal ganglia. Areas of Gadolinium enhancement were present in the temporal lobe.
Electroencephalography showed a left mid-temporal slow wave focus which became more prominent with hyperventilation

Other laboratory investigations were normal

A left temporal lobectomy was carried out

MATERIAL SUBMITTED: One H&E-stained slide from the temporal lobectomy specimen

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:
1) Diagnosis
2) Presentation/MRI features