

Functional Motor Weakness: A Rarely Considered Diagnosis

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Abstract

The functional motor weakness remains an unrecognized and rarely considered diagnosis despite a vast frequency of patients who present with these symptoms. Prognostic factors include a large number of factors. The mortality in such cases can be due to a variety of causes. The patient's diagnosis as functional motor weakness should be considered and a clinician should not shy away from making the diagnosis in view of a possible better management and outcome of the patient. A hesitance in making this diagnosis can impair the treatment of these patients. One needs to be vigilant and always reconsider the diagnosis if the management of motor weakness does not yield results.

Keywords: Functional Motor; Weakness; Prognostic Factors

The functional motor weakness remains an unrecognized and rarely considered diagnosis despite a vast frequency of patients who present with these symptoms. There is a growing acceptance of this diagnosis among the medical practitioners. However there remains a fear of misdiagnosis among the clinicians when they consider this diagnosis. Largely because the prognosis of the condition however remains unclear.

Prognostic factors include a large number of factors. Some of adverse factors include a poor general health prior to the onset of the illness; pain present prior to the onset of the illness; somatoform symptoms prior to the onset of the symptoms. The positive factor that correlates with the outcome includes early diagnosis and a short duration of the symptom.

The mortality in such cases can be due to a variety of causes that include neurodegenerative disorders; chronic illnesses (such as depression, anxiety, stress) and their effects; a poor health even prior to the onset of the condition; and sedentary lifestyle and its complications.

The patient's diagnosis as functional motor weakness should therefore be considered and a clinician should not shy away from making the diagnosis in view of a possible better management and outcome of the patient. A hesitance in making this diagnosis can impair the treatment of these patients. One therefore needs to be vigilant and always reconsider the diagnosis if the management of motor weakness does not yield results [1].

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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