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Moshe Isaac Weber

Advisor(s): Steven Sparr

Hallucinatory Palinopsia as a Long-term Sequela of Occipital Infarction

Hallucinatory palinopsia is a rare visual phenomenon consisting of persistent visual images based on previous visual input. This form of palinopsia consists of well-formed images or scenes retained in the patient's vision despite removal of the stimulus, caused by interruptions of the posterior visual pathway. There are reports of hallucinatory palinopsia following occipital infarcts; however, the visual disturbances begin immediately or soon after the infarction. This report presents a case of hallucinatory palinopsia which occurred nearly 1 year after an occipital infarction in the setting of homonymous hemianopsia. We hypothesize that this late onset may have been precipitated by otherwise asymptomatic post-infarction seizures. This case identifies post-infarction seizure induced hallucinatory palinopsia as a possible etiology of visual disturbances in patients with a history of occipital infarction.