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STUDY ON ORGANIC HALLUCINOSIS: THE CHARLES-BONNET SYNDROME

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Introduction: In 1890 Ball defined hallucinations as perceptions without real object with sharp features and embodiment of that approach actual sensory perceptions.

Objective and methods: We present the case of an elderly woman with cataract. Previously we made a review of the literature and its controversies.

Results: An 82 year old woman was referred to psychiatry for primary care physician for evaluation of visual hallucinations of 3 ½ months of evolution. Among somatic background are collected: arterial hypertension, cataracts and increased intraocular tension.

The detection of the picture is casual, for the comments that the patient makes to his daughter. She says that she sees her husband died 6 years ago, on the stairs. Reported to have a house full of people describing in detail the number of people and the characteristics of them. She claims that under the bed see rats and dogs.

She was conscious and oriented. No significant objective emotional impact of visual hallucinations. Is euthymic and without anxiety clinic. Complex visual hallucinations are objectified. The content of thought has developed a delusional elaboration of hallucinations with partial insight.

The primary care physician began treatment with haloperidol, the patient presenting extrapyramidal symptoms, so it was discontinued and olanzapine was started up to 10 mg. The clinical picture resolved completely within a few days.

Conclusions: Charles Bonnet described in the 1760s. Morsier is the first called the Charles Bonnet syndrome as a persistent or recurrent visual hallucinosis in older people with serious visual impairment and psychically healthy.