

Case 1996 #4

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Case Reference number: 90NPA19

Clinical History: The patient was an 89 year old former tool and die foreman who was active and asymptomatic until the age of 79 years, when he began to demonstrate poor judgement, incontinence, and memory loss. He had occasional episodes of violence and during one episode killed the family dog. Six years prior to death he began to wander more frequently and was often disoriented to time being no longer able to drive. Four years prior to death he was placed in a nursing home and frequently wandered off. He continued to have episodes of combativeness and agitation. He also began to fall resulting in frequent hospitalization for evaluation of possible arrhythmia or other cardiovascular abnormality. Three years prior to death the patient was operated on for bilateral entropions with a poor postoperative result. The patient continued to have frequent falls but radiographs never revealed fractures. Three years prior to death his CT scan revealed cerebral atrophy. His family history included a mother who died of cancer at age 86 years and a father who died of cardiovascular disease at age 76 years. The patient reportedly had three sisters and one brother aged 70, 88, 91, and 76 years (with the 88 year old having a history of dementia of unknown etiology).

Material Submitted: 1 H&E Section and 1 unstained section which includes a portion of cingulate gyrus, thalamus, and parietal lobe.