

Tungsten Carbide Dreams: Unprecedented Proliferation of Hitherto Little Studied Condition

Frezia Lumsk¹, Cimbalom Arthur² and Satchmo Halvbjörnsen^{2,*}

¹ Ulmergraaf Medical University, The Netherlands

² Bohemian Institute for the Study of Rare Afflictions, Znojmo, The Czech Republic

* Correspondence: satchmo.halvbjornsen@bisra.cz

Abstract: de Gronk's syndrome, commonly known as atypical delusional mole fever, or tunnel madness, has for many years occupied only a marginal place in modern medical literature. However, in recent years an unexpected surge in reported occurrences of this previously rare affliction has sparked an increased interest among clinical researchers. The patient typically experiences an intense urge to dig tunnels into the ground, coupled with far reaching delusions of being in charge of a scientific expedition with the aim of discovering and documenting unknown worlds beneath the surface of the earth. The onset of the syndrome is usually rapid, and the prognosis often poor. This study makes extensive references to empirical observations of actual cases, showing a weak but statistically significant correlation between de Gronk's syndrome and certain environmental factors.

Keywords: de Gronk's syndrome; Atypical delusional mole fever; Amateur archeology

1. Introduction

The condition known as de Gronk's syndrome was first described in 1957 by Dutch medical researcher Dr Jofranzius de Gronk, in a study of a group of seven men of varying age found wandering aimlessly in a discontinued cheese mine outside the village of Broeldorp, the Netherlands [1]. Upon examination the subjects were found to be in relative physical health, but in a confused mental stage, speaking incoherently and often returning to the subject of subterranean exploration. Furthermore, it was soon discovered that leaving the subjects unattended for more than a very brief period of time would invariably result in furious attempts to penetrate the floorboards using whatever implements found close at hand, presumably in an attempt to continue their delusionally motivated endeavours to tunnel towards the inner recesses of the planet. An extensive regime of experimental treatment methods, including unorthodox application of oddly shaped root vegetables, was implemented, but ultimately found to be fruitless. The subjects were subsequently transferred to a local garden centre, where their passion for digging in the soil could be put to constructive use.

After the cases outlined by Dr de Gronk, this mysterious affliction has rarely been studied and only mentioned in passing in the major medical journals, presumably in

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part due to a considerable lack of reported cases. A suspected epidemic in a secluded settlement in the lowlands of rural Jutland in 1976 turned out, on closer inspection, to be an agricultural fertility rite, involving the ceremonial incarceration of all local residents under the age of 27 in a cavernous space located directly underneath the village's plantations of Indian hemp, where they were forced to remain until the next full moon, or else when one of the more senior members of the tribe were able to persuade them emerge [2].

A handful of other dubious reports have surfaced during the last decades, none of which could be conclusively identified as genuine cases of de Gronk's syndrome. However, recent occurrences in a number of locations in various parts of the world have rekindled scientific interest in this rare disease, as evident in the plethora of papers presented on medical conferences during the past year.

2. Method

Based on clinical assumptions arrived at in tandem with researchers from the Il-sendorff-Brummel laboratory, Lichtenstein, the research presented in this article has been carried out utilising a spectographic technique first described in the premonesterial research files of the Mestimeter institute of the Appalachian clinic in Ulm by Dr Swingerum Grappenhelm in 1974, whereby observations of the subject's behavioural pattern is analysed in the light of close readings of intracranially measured levels of delphinium beta esoterium in the purple lymphatic fluid [3]. This has in turn been cross referenced with triple blind observations of statistically equivalent subjects randomly selected from a group of Peruvian meteorologists on their way to a conference in Svalbard, taking into account the relative humidity as well as possible cultural bias.

3. Results

Given the tentative nature of the preliminary studies leading up to the research presented here, the results of the current study denotes a marked shift in the empirical status of the subject at hand. Findings indicate a marked predisposition towards metabolically insurgent indicators in combination with a unicyclical prevalence of beta tetrahydrates in the limbical and subcerebral systems of the subjects, pointing towards a correlation between an elementary alsatian disposition and a noticeable leaning towards the lower altitudes, coupled with a predilection for a soil based phantasy life and manifest exploaritive delusions, see figure 1.

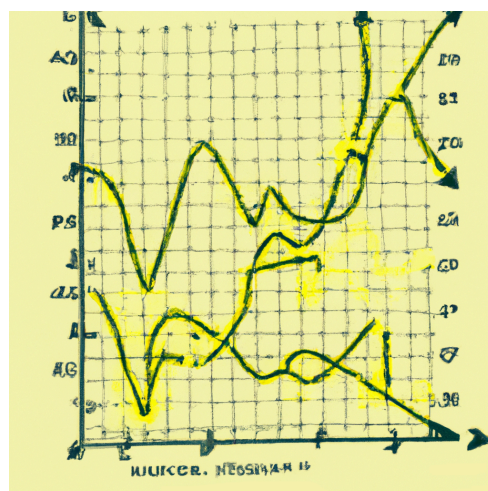


Figure 1.

4. Conclusions

The current study convincingly demonstrates several crucial factors involved in the onset of the unfortunate condition known as de Gronk's syndrome. These findings in turn point towards factors in the present day environment as a plausible explanation of the recently observed outbreaks of the syndrome, especially in semipopulated rural areas with a high concentration of deciduous conifers. Early exposure to horn music, in combination with dietary peculiarities such as a high intake of plant based substitutes for cured meats, would seem to be a particularly potent concoction when it comes to inducing a desire to seek solace and shelter below ground.

These findings, and the interpretations outlined above, signal a departure from the previously accepted descriptions of the pathological and pharmacological mechanisms behind de Gronk's syndrome, which have tended to focus on hereditary factors and a perceived comorbidity with other conditions, such as knock knees and fish allergy [4]. Instead we propose a new paradigm in the research surrounding de Gronk's syndrome and similar conditions, emphasising circumstances in the sufferer's immediate surroundings and suggesting fruitful avenues for further studies into how these circumstances might be favourably altered to prevent the catastrophic epidemic of rampant tunnel digging and subsequent thematic slide presentations behind closed doors that would otherwise be an inevitable prospect in the near future.

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