New onset alopecia and hirsutism in a postmenopausal women

Annette Bühler-Christen, Verena Tischler, Pierre-André Diener & Michael Brändle

Recent onset of hirsutism in postmenopausal women is mostly caused by androgen secretion from adrenal or ovarian tumours. Ovarian hyperthecosis (OH) is a cause of hyperandrogenism in premenopausal women, few cases of postmenopausal presentation have been described. We report on a 73-year old women with androgenic alopecia and hirsutism of recent onset because of elevated testosterone levels. Radiologic imaging showed no tumours of the adrenal glands and ovaries. Careful re-evaluation revealed increased ovarian size in relation to age. Bilateral ovariectomy confirmed the diagnosis of ovarian hyperthecosis and led to improvement of clinical findings. It is important to review imaging findings as OH may elude imaging studies. OH should be included in the differential diagnosis of postmenopausal hyperandrogenism particularly if androgen excess is of recent-onset.

**type**
journal paper/review (English)

**date of publishing**
5-2009

**journal title**
Gynecological endocrinology : the official journal of the International Society of Gynecological Endocrinology (25/5)

**ISSN electronic**
1473-0766

**pages**
324-7