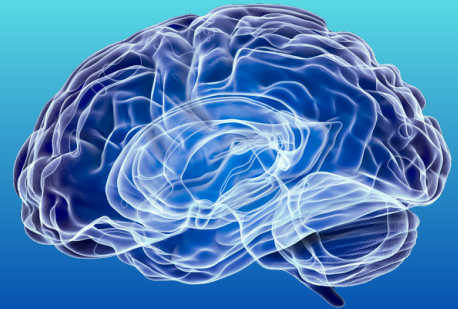


## FINDING LIGHT IN THE NEWSPRINT: A TALE OF RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY



*A young labourer walked in to my OPD a few months back. I always like to make my patients comfortable before I ask them what's wrong by striking a regular conversation about their personal life. He told me that he was a labourer and was engaged in daily wagger. His work involved lifting heavy weights on a regular basis. After a small chit chat about his family and knowing that one of his two children was blind from birth, I asked him what brought him to me today. My mind had already started to wonder if he has developed some sort of neck or back pain due to heavy lifting. At the same time, I was thinking if he would have some red flag signs to indicate an MRI and perhaps surgery. I wanted to do the best for him in the least expenditure possible. I couldn't be more wrong.*

*"I am finding it very difficult to read newspaper for last few days", he said.*

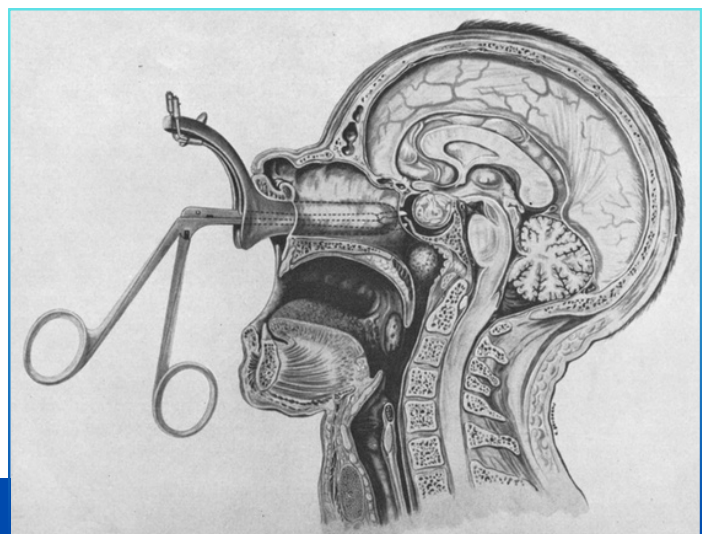
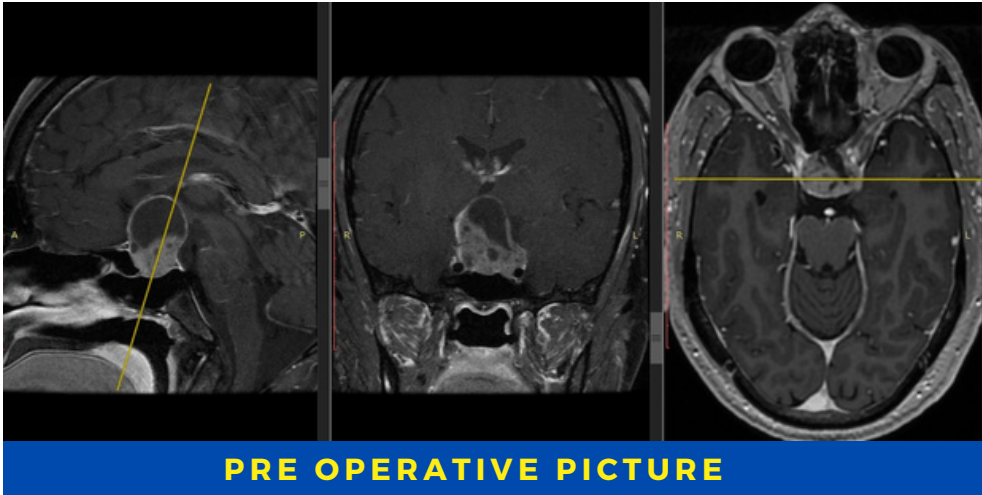
*That came as a pleasant surprise to me. I did not expect that he would even read a newspaper leave aside having complaints that he had problems reading. My mind was full of praise for him. He told me that though he works as a labourer, he was fond of reading. He would regularly read newspaper and liked to stay up to date about things happening around. That was his solace in the struggle he had to go through every day. He was afraid to lose his vision. He wanted to take care of his loved ones.*



**DR. ANSHUL JAIN**  
Consultant Neuro Surgeon

**Examination showed that he had developed bilateral papilledema; with bitemporal hemianopia. I got his MRI brain done that showed a large tumour sitting atop his optic nerves; a pituitary tumour. He was losing vision at an alarming rate. He needed surgery at the earliest to take the pressure off his optic nerves.**

The news was like a shock to him. I tried explaining to him that he is at risk of losing his eyesight to something he had never heard of before. He needed a brain surgery; he was obviously afraid and short of resources. After a long counselling session, he understood and agreed for surgery. He was able to gather some funds with help of friends and family. The shortest route to his tumour was through his nose. The tumour sat at the skull base; at the roof of the nose. He underwent microscopic trans-nasal trans-sphenoidal tumor excision. Complete extra capsular excision was achieved.



His entire tumour was taken out through the nose and his nerves were free. He woke up on the operating table and was shifted out with a small dressing on the nose. I was happy and worried. Happy that entire tumour was out. Worried for how much his vision would improve.

Next morning on the rounds, I found him all smiles with a newspaper in his hands. "I can read the fine prints below the headlines", he said with excitement.

**He was discharged 3 days later after a smooth stay in the hospital. His lesion's histopathology came out to be Pituitary Adenoma; a benign entity. He was cured. He went home as a happy reader**

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