Figure. (A) MRI diffusion image shows hyperintense signal in right parietal and right insular cortex. Cerebral arteriogram (B) day 2 shows severe diffuse vasospasm involving the right supraclinoid internal carotid artery and middle cerebral artery, and (C) 41/2 months later shows normal vessel size without vasospasm.

Cerebral vasospasm from sumatriptan

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A 43-year-old woman with history of chronic migraine headache presented with sudden-onset left-sided field cut and hemiplegia.

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For the previous 6 months, she had been taking sumatriptan (Imitrex) 25 mg PO daily for headaches. MRI showed restricted diffusion in the right middle cerebral artery (MCA) distribution (figure, A). The CSF analysis was unremarkable. Cerebral arteriography revealed diffuse bilateral vasospasm involving the supraclinoid internal carotid artery, anterior cerebral artery, MCA (figure, B), and Basilar artery with its branches. There were no vascular malformations or aneurysms. Cerebral vasospasm was presumed to be from sumatriptan, and thus sumatriptan was discontinued. A follow-up angiogram done 7 days later demonstrated marked improvement.

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Neurology 2004;63:2128

DOI 10.1212/01.WNL.0000140621.32871.18

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