Teaching NeuroImages:

Artery-to-artery embolism from a thrombosed cerebral aneurysm

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Figure Thrombosed aneurysm causing cerebral infarction

Brain CT 3 years prior showed unruptured aneurysm without thrombus (A). Current CT demonstrates a thrombus (B, arrow). CT angiography revealed residual lumen from which the divisions of MCA take off (C, arrow). The thrombus formed a layer (D: T2, E: T1). Acute infarction was found on diffusion-weighted imaging (F).

A 42-year-old man presented with right hemiparesis. Brain imaging showed acute infarction in the left middle cerebral artery territory and a thrombosed aneurysm (figure). Extracranial carotid artery was normal. EKG and echocardiography were normal. Holter monitoring for 24 hours revealed no cardiac source of embolism.

Cerebral infarction is a rare complication of unruptured aneurysm.¹ The imaging changes over

time strongly suggest artery-to-artery embolism due to thrombosed unruptured aneurysm.

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