Teaching NeuroImages:

Amnesia due to fornix infarction

B.L. Adamovich, MD
G. Gualberto, MD
T. Roberts, MD
M.W. Haut, PhD
L. Gutmann, MD

Address correspondence and
reprint requests to Dr. Ludwig
Gutmann, Robert C. Byrd Health
Sciences Center, PO Box 9180,
WV University, Morgantown,
WV 26506-9180
lgutmann@wvu.edu

Figure Diffusion-weighted axial (A) and sagittal (B) MRI demonstrating an acute infarction of the anterior fornices

A 53-year-old right-handed teacher developed acute confusion and short-term memory difficulties, including significant retrograde and anterograde amnesia. Intellect remained intact. She repeated phrases spoken recently without recall and asked inappropriate questions.

Mini-Mental State Examination was normal except for inability to recall any of 3 objects after 5 minutes. She had no other neurologic abnormalities. CT angiogram and transesophageal echocardiogram showed no thromboembolic source. Amnesia persisted 2 months later.

Amnesia with infarction of anterior fornices (figure) has been rarely described. Small vessel disease of the perforating branches arising from the anterior cerebral or anterior communicating arteries^{1,2} was the likely source of the infarct.

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From the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center, West Virginia University, Morgantown.

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