Teaching *NeuroImages*: Vein of Galen aneurysm mimicking pineal mass in a young adult

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Figure Imaging

(A) CT scan of brain shows hyperdense mass in pineal region. (B) T1-weighted postcontrast MRI shows minimal contrast enhancement. Digital subtraction angiogram demonstrates no arterial (C) or venous (D) abnormalities in the region of mass, implying thrombosed vein of Galen aneurysm.

A 22-year-old man presented with intractable progressive headaches over 2 months. Noncontrast head CT and contrast-enhanced MRI scan revealed a hyperdense pineal-based mass (figure, A and B). Arteriogram was normal (figure, C and D).

Intraoperatively, a firm mass was observed with apparent venous drainage. Histology confirmed the diagnosis of vein of Galen–related thrombosed aneurysm.

Vein of Galen–related aneurysms are rare in adults.¹ They often present in childhood with high-output cardiac failure.² They present as isodense to hyperdense pineal mass with minimal heterogeneous contrast enhancement on T1-weighted MRI, thus mimicking radiologic and clinical features of pineal tumors, as in our case.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Sankalp Gokhale: concept and design of the study, acquisition of data, and critical manuscript revision. Daniel T. Laskowitz: concept and design of the study, acquisition of data, and critical manuscript revision.

STUDY FUNDING

No targeted funding reported.

DISCLOSURE

The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

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Neurology 2013;80:e240

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e318294b3df

This information is current as of May 27, 2013

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