

Acute amnesia associated with damaged fiber tracts following anterior fornix infarction

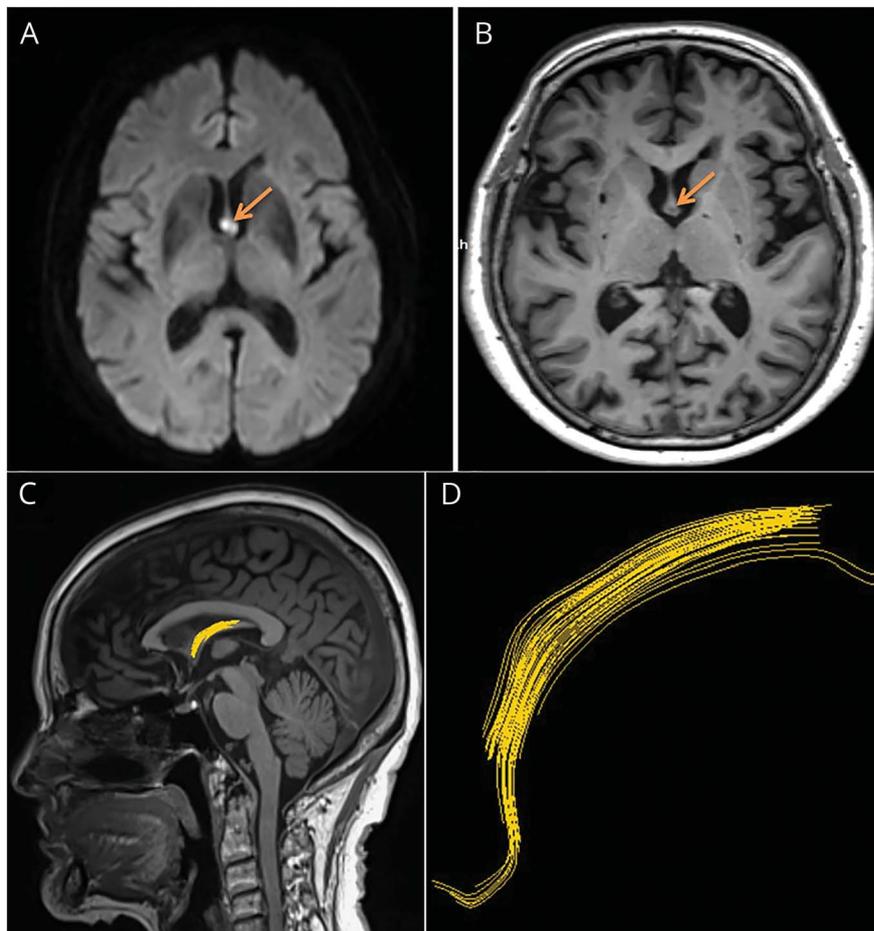
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Neurology® 2018;90:706-707. doi:10.1212/WNL.0000000000005306

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Figure Brain MRI and diffusion tensor tracking of anterior fornix infarction



(A) Axial diffusion-weighted imaging reveals an acute infarction of the anterior fornix (arrow). (B) Repeat T1-weighted brain MRI at 17 days after onset shows hypointense lesions in the same region (arrow). (C, D) Diffusion tensor tracking demonstrates that few fibers were followed.

A 78-year-old woman developed sudden-onset confusion and memory impairment. Examination demonstrated both retrograde and anterograde amnesia. Mini-Mental State Examination score of 17 exhibited poor performance in delayed recall and orientation function. Brain diffusion-weighted imaging revealed an acute infarction of the anterior fornix. Repeat T1-weighted images at 17 days after onset showed hypointense lesions in the same region. Meanwhile, diffusion tensor tracking was performed and demonstrated that few fibers were followed (figure), using Siemens (Munich, Germany) Syngo software with the measures of fractional anisotropy threshold 0.15 and angle 30. The fornix constitutes a core element of the Papez circuit^{1,2} and acute amnesia was the result of damaged fiber tracts following anterior fornix infarction in this patient.

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Author contributions

Dr. Qing Yong Zhu: study concept and design, drafting the manuscript. Dr. Hong Can Zhu: revising the manuscript, interpretation of data. Dr. Cheng Ru Song: analysis and acquisition of radiologic data.

Study funding

No targeted funding reported.

Disclosure

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

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This information is current as of April 9, 2018

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