Evolving traumatic cerebellar hematoma

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A 10-year-old boy fell from a tree onto concrete. When he was first assessed, he had a headache but had a normal conscious level and no neurologic signs. A cranial CT scan was performed 5 hours after the injury (figure, A). He remained alert, neurologically intact, and cardiovascularly stable for a further 24 hours, but then deteriorated with worsening headache, drowsiness, neck retraction, and left hemiparesis. After a repeated CT scan (see the figure, B) the cerebellar hematoma was evacuated. He recovered completely. Such late delayed expansion of a traumatic intracerebral hematoma is unusual. Possible mechanisms include coagulopathy (absent in this case) and local vascular necrosis or dysautoregulation.

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