
Hyperdense MCA resolved after tPA

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A 57-year-old male experienced sudden onset of left-sided hemianopsia, neglect, and weakness (face/arm [0/5 strength] > leg [2/5 strength]); NIH stroke scale (NIHSS) = 16. Prothrombin time/international normalized ratio was 15.2/1.8. CT scan revealed a hyperdense middle cerebral artery (HMCA) (figure, A). tPA (0.9 mg/kg) was infused at t = 2.5 hours. Within 30 minutes, arm/leg strength was 4/5 (NIHSS 10). Repeat CT scan demonstrated MCA patency (see figure, B). The patient made a complete recovery.

The HMCA is a marker of intraluminal thrombus in the appropriate clinical setting.1 When accompanied by an NIHSS > 10, outcomes are typically poor.2 We believe these images represent recanalization of an occluded vessel.

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