T2*-weighted MRI in cortical venous thrombosis

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T2*/susceptibility-weighted (T2*SW) MRI enables diagnosis of cerebral venous thrombosis (CVT) by clot visualization as an area of hypointensity. This sequence also contributes to the diagnosis of isolated cortical CVT.

A 78-year-old man suffered a first episode of generalized seizure, right-sided hemiparesis, and confusion (figure, A). A 38-year-old woman complained of headache and left hemianopsia (figure, B). MRI was performed on a 1.5 T scanner 10 days after symptom onset in Case 1 and 3 days in Case 2, including diffusion weighted imaging, conventional T1 and T2, proton density, gadolinium enhanced 2D-TOF venography, and T2* SW imaging.

Figure. MRI T2*. (A) Case 1: loss of signal consistent with a thrombosed cortical vein (white arrow). (B) Case 2: right occipital venous hemorrhagic infarction (black arrow), and thrombosed superficial vein (white arrow).

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