Thromboembolic stroke in ICA stenosis

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A 74-year-old man with right-sided amaurosis fugax had an ultrasound examination revealing right internal carotid artery (ICA) stenosis (figure 1, A and B). Angiography (figure 2A) showed a proximal ICA stenosis of approximately 90% according to NASCET criteria\(^1\) and a distal thrombus. The patient was anticoagulated with heparin. Invasive treatment options were discussed, but 16 hours later the patient had a stroke (figure 2B), with left sided hemiplegia and hemineglect. The insult was caused by arterio-arterial thromboembolism rather than ICA occlusion, because follow-up ultrasound showed the right ICA still with the same high degree of stenosis (figure 1, C and D). In ICA stenosis, embolic cerebral infarction is usually ascribed to plaque rupture, and imaging often shows multiple emboli.\(^2,3\) In contrast, here the heterozygous factor V Leiden mutation (R506Q) may have contributed to thrombus formation in the post-stenotic artery.\(^4,5\)

**References**

Teaching NeuroImage: Thromboembolic stroke in ICA stenosis
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Neurology 2005;65:E16
DOI 10.1212/01.wnl.0000178887.74545.0d

This information is current as of October 10, 2005

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