Dural arteriovenous fistula in a case of dementia with bithalamic MR lesions

T2-weighted MRI of the brain revealed bithalamic hyperintense lesions (figure, A) in a 73-year-old man with a 5-month history of dementia. Although the tentative diagnosis was metabolic encephalopathy or glial tumors, we finally suspected dural arteriovenous fistula (AVF) based on bithalamic vasodilatation on enhanced MRI. Cerebral angiography demonstrated a dural AVF with retrograde flow through the vein of Galen (figure, B). After transarterial embolization, dementia improved accompanied by disappearance of bithalamic abnormal intensities (figure, C). Hypertension of the vein of Galen resulting from a dural AVF should be considered in dementia cases with characteristic bithalamic lesions.

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