A 42-year-old man presented with right hemiparesis. Brain imaging showed acute infarction in the left middle cerebral artery territory and a thrombosed aneurysm (figure). Extracranial carotid artery was normal. EKG and echocardiography were normal. Holter monitoring for 24 hours revealed no cardiac source of embolism.

Cerebral infarction is a rare complication of unruptured aneurysm. The imaging changes over time strongly suggest artery-to-artery embolism due to thrombosed unruptured aneurysm.

REFERENCE
Teaching NeuroImages: Artery-to-artery embolism from a thrombosed cerebral aneurysm
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Neurology 2009;73:e63
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e3181b9c908

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