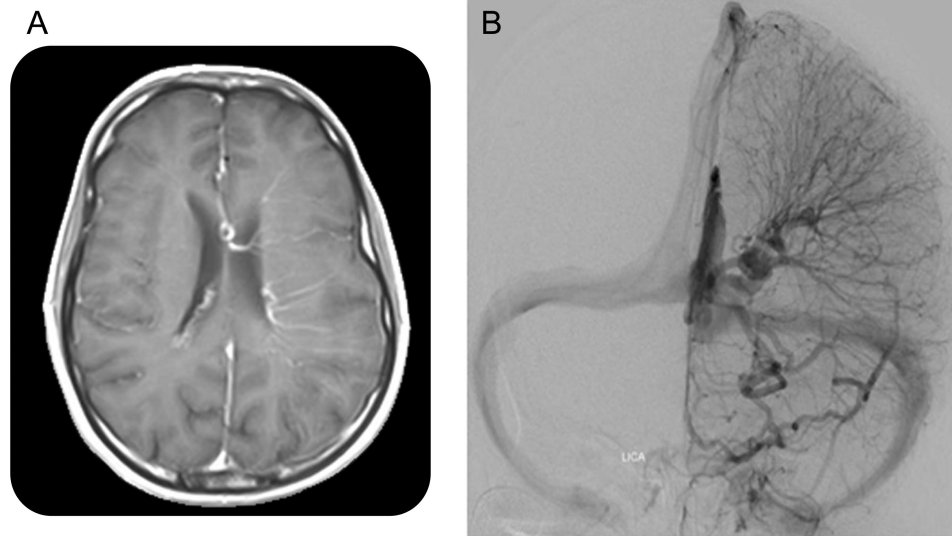


# Teaching NeuroImages: A giant developmental venous anomaly in the absence of a superficial venous drainage system

A.M.G. Fuhler, MD  
J.M.C. van Dijk, MD,  
PhD  
K. Koopman, MD,  
PhD  
G.J. Luijckx, MD, PhD

Address correspondence and  
reprint requests to Dr. A.M.G.  
Fuhler, UMC Groningen,  
Department of Neurosurgery, PO  
Box 30001, 9700 RB Groningen,  
the Netherlands  
mariskafuhler@hotmail.com

Figure Holoheemispheric developmental venous anomaly



(A) T1-weighted MRI with IV gadolinium. The centrum semiovale shows multiple contrast-enhanced linear structures from the cortex to the left lateral ventricle. (B) Digital subtraction angiography. In the absence of a superficial venous drainage system, a holoheemispheric developmental venous anomaly is visualized.

A 46-year-old woman presented with new left hemispheric seizures. Enhanced T1 MRI showed a vascular abnormality (figure, A). All other sequences were normal. Cerebral angiography revealed a developmental venous anomaly, with the typical caput medusae appearance (figure, B).

Developmental venous anomalies are generally considered benign variants of the venous system and are thus regarded as symptom-free, although they can be associated with cavernomas which may cause seizures.<sup>1,2</sup>

In this case, without signs of a cavernoma, the absence of a superficial venous system may be responsible for the seizures, since a fragile equilibrium of inflow and outflow may lead to venous congestion.

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From the Departments of Neurosurgery (A.M.G.F., J.M.C.v.D.) and Neurology (K.K., G.J.L.), University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands.

*Disclosure:* The authors report no disclosures.

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*Neurology* 2010;75:e88

DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e3181feb247

**This information is current as of November 22, 2010**

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