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Teaching NeuroImages: Subacute intracerebral hemorrhage mimicking brain tumor

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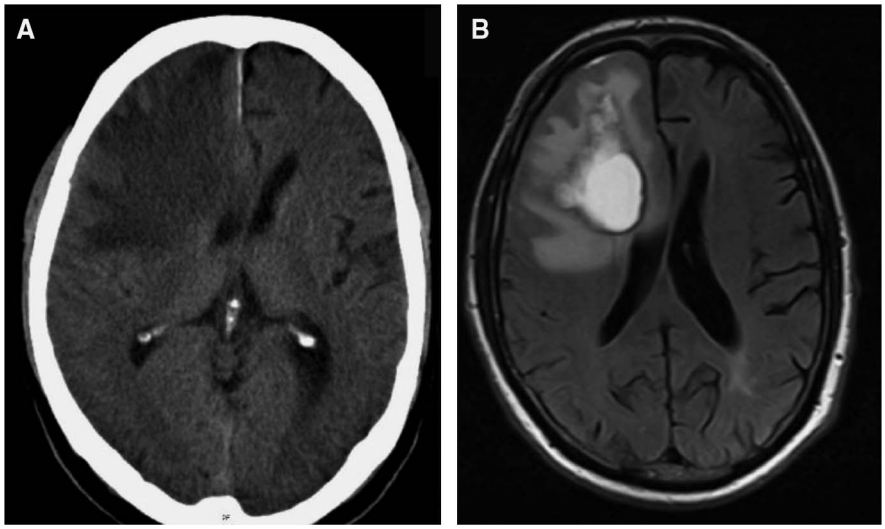
Figure CT and MRI of the brain show subacute intracerebral hemorrhage



Head CT (A) shows an irregular area of low density in the right frontal lobe. On T2-weighted fluid-attenuated inversion recovery MRI (B), this irregular area consists of a hyperintense central lesion (subacute hematoma) lined by a hypointense rim (hemosiderin) surrounded by a hyperintense finger-like zone (vasogenic edema).

A 73-year-old man was referred to the outpatient clinic with a 2-week history of headache and apathy. Neurologic examination revealed mild left-sided facial, arm, and leg paresis. Head CT appeared to show a right frontal lobe tumor with finger-like vasogenic edema. Instead, MRI revealed a subacute lobar hemorrhage with perihematomal edema (figure). On follow-up imaging, no underlying cause was found.

The temporal changes in density on CT can make a hemorrhage difficult to recognize, particularly in the late subacute phase.[1,2] MRI is able to detect several phases of hematoma evolution and shows better discrimination of the lesion from surrounding edema.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

P.M. Janssen and E.I. Hoff both provided clinical care to the patient and participated in writing and design of the manuscript.

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