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Teaching NeuroImages: Chronic sinus thrombosis with patency of occipital and falcine cerebral venous sinuses

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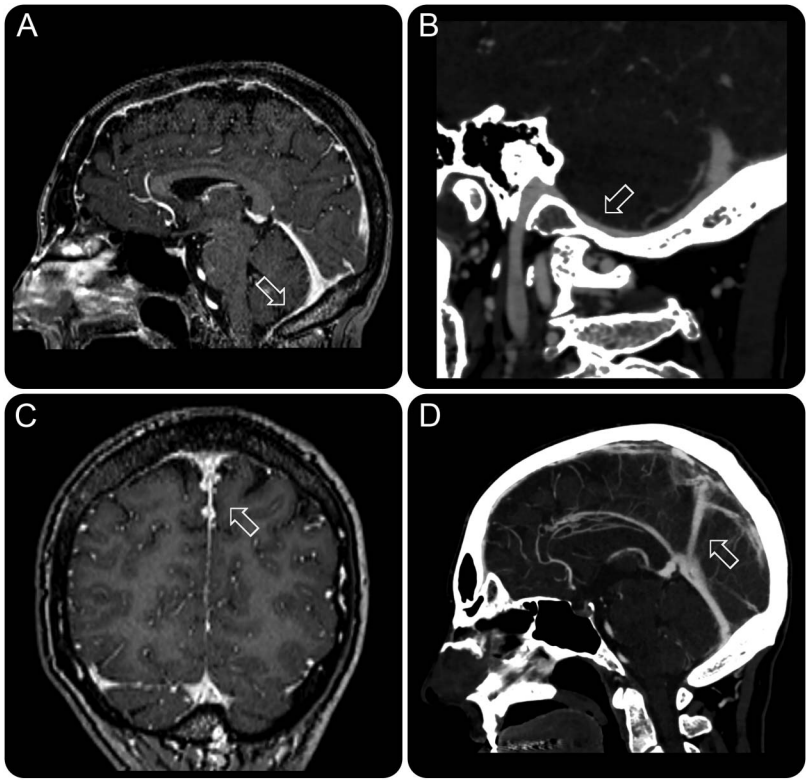
Figure MRI and CT in chronic sinus thrombosis



Occipital sinus is visible in T1-weighted, contrast-enhanced magnetic resonance (MR) angiography (A, arrow) and in CT venography (B, arrow). Falcine sinus is visible in coronal T1-weighted, contrast-enhanced MR angiography (C, arrow) and in CT venography (D, arrow).

A 42-year-old woman was referred to the emergency department for severe, drug-resistant headache, persisting since 4 weeks. Neurologic examination was unremarkable. CT venography and magnetic resonance angiography (figure) showed occlusion of the sagittal, rectus, and right sigmoidal sinus and of the right jugular vein, and ectasia of cortical veins, including tentorial veins, the falcine, and the occipital sinus. The falcine sinus usually involutes after birth,[1] but thrombosis of this sinus have been described.[2] It may become visible in neuroimaging if the straight sinus is thrombosed. The occipital sinus pericranii is the smallest dural venous sinus. The simultaneous patency of these alternative venous drainages is consistent with a compensatory mechanism for chronic dural sinus thrombosis.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Vollono: study concept and design, drafting the manuscript, revising the manuscript, and final approval. Dr. Tartaglione: acquisition and analysis of data, drafting the manuscript, revising the manuscript, and final approval. Dr. Della Marca: study concept and design, drafting the manuscript, interpretation of data, study supervision, revising the manuscript, and final approval.

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DISCLOSURE

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