

Teaching NeuroImages: Corkscrew medullary veins in active neurosarcoidosis

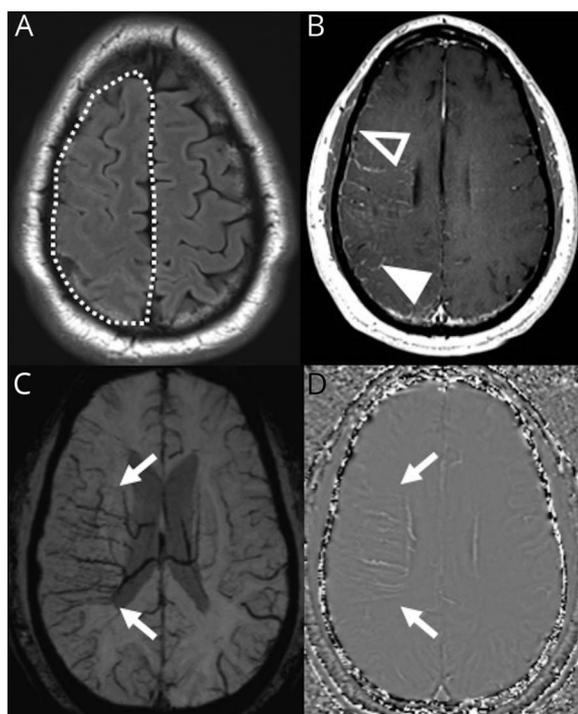
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Neurology® 2019;93:e1832-e1833. doi:10.1212/WNL.00000000000008460

Figure Fluid-attenuated inversion recovery (FLAIR), gadolinium contrast-enhanced, and susceptibility-weighted images



(A) FLAIR images show asymmetric gyral edema of the right frontal and parietal lobes (dotted line). (B) Both pial (clear arrowhead) and dural (solid arrowhead) enhancement were seen throughout the right hemisphere. (C) Susceptibility-weighted images show dilated and tortuous right-sided medullary veins (white arrows), confirmed on phase-contrast imaging (D).

A 47-year-old man with a history of biopsy-proven sarcoidosis presented with 6 months of cognitive decline and incontinence. Neuroimaging was consistent with active neurosarcoidosis and notable for asymmetrical dilation and corkscrew appearance of the right medullary veins (figure). Medullary vein dilation is a recently described imaging pattern in neurosarcoidosis, seen in 33% of patients.¹ The pathogenesis is uncertain but may result from perivenous inflammation or dysfunction of glymphatic drainage.¹ Susceptibility-weighted imaging highlights the veins by localizing the paramagnetic signal of deoxygenated blood.² Medullary vein dilation is a frequent finding in neurosarcoidosis, which can be used as one of the diagnostic criteria and can serve as a biomarker of disease activity.

Study funding

No targeted funding reported.

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Disclosure

The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org/N for full disclosures.

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This information is current as of November 4, 2019

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