Teaching NeuroImages: Stroke presenting with isolated superior branch of cranial nerve III palsy

Gaurav Kapoor, DO, Yash D. Shah, MD, MPH, and Richard Libman, MD

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Correspondence

Dr. Libman
rlibman@northwell.edu

Figure MRI brain and photographs of the patient

(A) MRI brain noncontrast reveals abnormal T2 prolongation with mild restricted diffusion seen involving the medial aspect of the right cerebral peduncle. (B–E) Extraocular movements. (B) Right ptosis. (C–E) Normal infraduction, abduction, and adduction bilateral. (F) Impaired supraduction of right eye on upgaze.

A 53-year-old man presented with diplopia. On examination, he had mild to moderate right ptosis and limited supraduction in the right eye with no abnormalities of adduction, abduction, infraduction, or pupillary reactivity (figure, B–E). MRI brain revealed restricted diffusion consistent with acute infarction involving the medial aspect of the right cerebral peduncle (figure, A).

In the orbit, the third nerve divides into superior (supplying superior rectus and levator palpebrae superioris) and inferior (supplying medial and inferior recti, inferior oblique and ciliary ganglion) divisions. This case supports the consistency of third nerve structural organization within the midbrain, a rare manifestation of partial third nerve palsy caused by a stroke.^{1,2}

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From the Department of Neurology (G.K., R.L.) and Department of Pediatric Neurology, Cohens Children's Hospital and Medical Center (Y.D.S.), Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Glen Oaks; and Department of Neurology (R.L.), Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell and North Shore University Hospital, Manhasset, NY.

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Disclosure

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Appendix Authors

Name	Location	Role	Contribution
Gaurav Kapoor, DO	Long Island Jewish Medical Center	Author	Major role in the acquisition and interpretation of data, drafted the manuscript for intellectual content
Yash D. Shah, MD, MPH	Cohen Children's Medical Center	Author	Major role in the acquisition and interpretation of data, drafted the manuscript for intellectual content
Richard Libman, MD	Long Island Jewish Medical Center	Author	Major role in the interpretation of data, revised manuscript for intellectual content

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