Teaching NeuroImage: A Starry Sky in the Brain

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A 30-year-old HIV-positive man with a history of frequent river bathing presented
with headache and fever. Neurological examinations revealed meningeal irritation. On brain MRI, contrast-enhanced T1WI showed diffuse intracranial nodules with high signal intensity, creating a “starry sky” appearance (Figure A). Serum IgG antibodies against *Schistosoma* species were detected using ELISA. High-throughput sequencing confirmed schistosomiasis in the CSF. These findings and the absence of granulomatous diseases indicated a diagnosis of disseminated cerebral schistosomiasis. The patient was treated with glucocorticoids and praziquantel (60 mg/kg, twice/day for 5 days). One year later, follow-up MRI showed significant lesion absorption (Figure B).

**Figure legends**

**Figure.** (A) A brain MRI contrast-enhanced T1WI shows diffuse intracranial high-signal nodules, with significant enhancement, producing a “starry sky” appearance. The pia meninges are thickened and show linear enhancement (red arrows). (B) A contrast-enhanced T1WI shows the disappearance of the lesions 1 year later.
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