

MR-Brain Causing Confusion

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Case History

An 82-year-old lady was found on the floor of her home, confused and surrounded by vomitus. She had a past medical history of type II diabetes, hypothyroidism, previous left total hip replacement, and previous hip fracture treated with right dynamic screw fixation. Prior to the current presentation she had been living alone, mobilizing independently with a walking stick and self-caring for her activities of daily living. She was last seen by her daughter on the previous day, and reported no concerning symptoms.

At hospital presentation she was hypoxic requiring 15L oxygen via non re-breathable mask to maintain target saturations of 94-98%. Her blood pressure was 133/72mmHg, heart rate 105/minute, and afebrile with a temperature of 36.0C. She was responsive to voice on the AVPU score, GCS 13/15 (E4, V4, M6). Her cardiovascular, respiratory and abdominal examination was unremarkable.

Her blood results demonstrated slight dehydration (urea 10.2mmol/L from 6.7mmol/L), a raised CRP of 324mg/ml, raised CK 2918 IU/L, leukocytosis (WCC $17.36 \times 10^9/L$) with predominant neutrophilia ($14.76 \times 10^9/L$). Her haemoglobin, and platelets were within normal.

Her chest X-Ray was unremarkable with no identifiable collapse or consolidation. She underwent a CT-Pulmonary angiogram for the unexplained hypoxia, which ruled out a pulmonary embolism however demonstrated patchy airspace changes in the posterior segments of the bilateral lower lobes, particularly in the right side raising the suspicion of aspiration pneumonia.

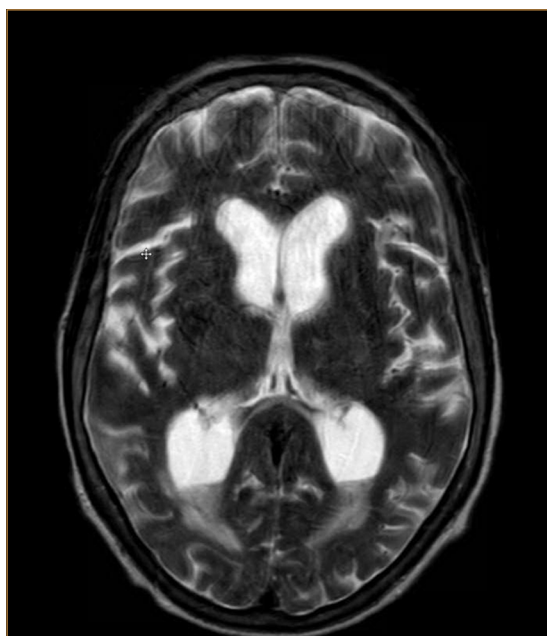


Figure 1.

She underwent a CT Brain for a suspected head injury following the un-witnessed fall and reduced level of consciousness, results of which were suggestive of an acute intra-ventricular bleed, prompting an urgent MRI brain (figure 1) and neurosurgical opinion.

Questions

1. What imaging modality is observed and what are the abnormal findings identified?
2. What are the aetiologies for this finding?

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