

Picture Quiz: A young patient with a severe headache

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Case history

A 38 year old woman presented with one day history of acute onset frontal headache which progressively generalised over a few hours. The headache was dull in nature and did not respond to analgesics. A day prior to the onset of headache her family members and the patient had noticed a distinct change in the appearance of her eyes. The headache was not associated with symptoms of meningism, vomiting, seizures, syncope or loss of consciousness. She did not report any weakness in her extremities. There was no recent history of neck trauma or neck pain and no other systemic symptoms.

There was no significant past medical history, apart from infrequent migraine, usually presenting with unilateral headaches without visual symptoms and gradual resolution over 24 hours. She was not on any medication including contraceptive pills.

Full neurological examination revealed an ocular abnormality (see Figure 1) but no other abnormal findings. She was haemodynamically stable and afebrile. ECG, chest xray and blood tests including biochemistry, C-reactive protein (CRP), full blood count and clotting screen were normal.

Cranial Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Magnetic Resonance Arteriography of neck vessels were requested.

Questions

1. What is the abnormality in the eyes?
2. What is the abnormality on MRI brain (Figure 2)
3. What is the unifying diagnosis?
4. What is the management ?



Figure 1.

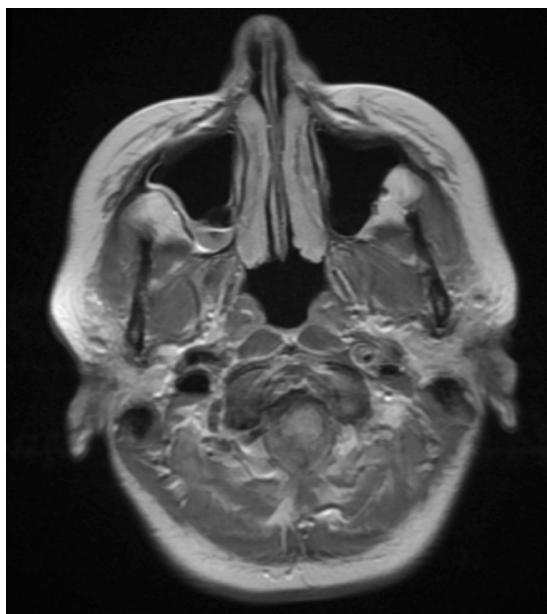


Figure 2.

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