

SUDDEN DEAFNESS AND ENCEPHALOPATHY: IS THERE AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST ON BOARD?

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CASE REPORT: A 30-year-old women was admitted to the hospital because of sudden onset of deafness and headache. In the few days before the hearing loss, she complained about a right sensitive and motor deficit, personality changes, and loss of memory. The neurological examination showed slight signs of right pyramidal disorder. A magnetic resonance image (MRI) revealed multiple signal hyperintensities in the corpus callosum, with a corpus callosum atrophy. The differential diagnosis was demyelinating conditions, such as multiple sclerosis, or acute demyelinating encephalomyelitis. Funduscopy examination and angiography of the retinal vessels established the final diagnosis. Susac's syndrome (also called Retinocochleocerebral vasculopathy) is a rare disorder that consists of microangiopathy of the brain, retina, and inner ear and usually affects women in young adulthood. Clinical aspects, radiographic finding and management are described.