



Extreme unilateral widening of Virchow Robin spaces mimicking stroke

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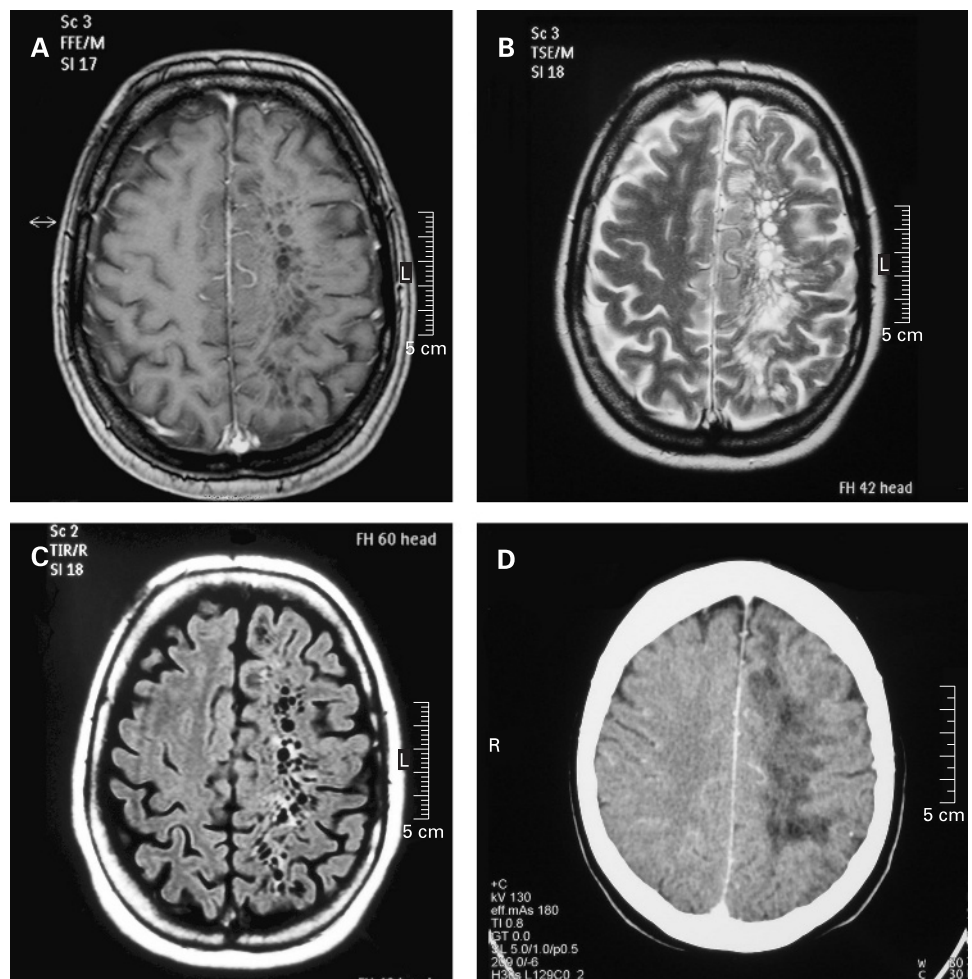
Neurological picture

Extreme unilateral widening of Virchow–Robin spaces mimicking stroke

CASE SUMMARY

A 49-year-old woman attended the headache outpatient clinic for a tension-type headache. Her clinical examination was normal but EEG showed diffuse slowing over the left hemisphere.

Figure 1 (A–C) Axial MRI (A), T1 contrast enhanced (B), T2 and FLAIR weighted images (C) show multiple confluent, oval, well defined lesions, isointense to CSF, in the left cerebral white matter, without pathological contrast enhancement. (D) Contrast enhanced CT shows extensive hypointense lesions in the left cerebral white matter, without contrast enhancement.



She had been examined 15 years previously for similar headaches. EEG recordings had exhibited the above findings, which prompted CT imaging, which showed multiple infarcts in the left cerebral hemisphere (written protocol, images no longer available). Cardiovascular check-up (including carotid angiogram) was normal.

After consultation, brain CT and MRI were re-checked (fig 1). On careful inspection, the previously reported lesions actually corresponded to extreme widening of Virchow–Robin spaces, which is a rare but benign entity.^{1 2} Dilations of the perivascular

spaces, even if giant, are in most cases fortuitously discovered because they do not induce any clinical abnormality.

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