

References

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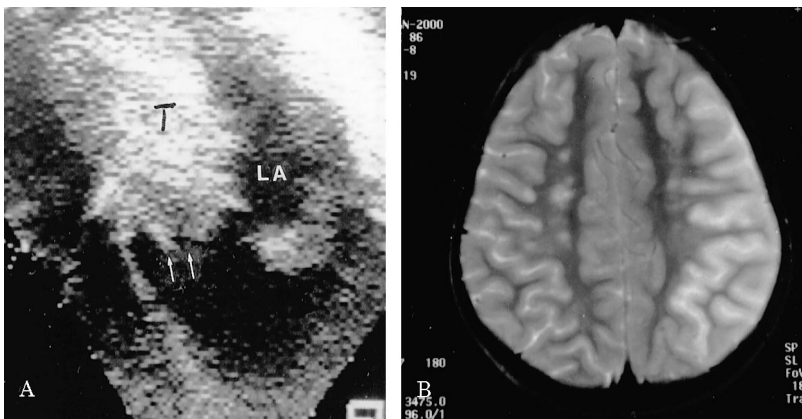


Figure. (A) Cardiac echocardiogram shows a large tumor (T) in the left atrium (LA) that crosses the mitral valve. Note the irregular surface on the left ventricular side of the tumor (arrows). (B) MR (repeat time 3475; echo time 96; TA 3:12) shows a large left middle cerebral artery infarction. There are also small punctate lesions at the gray/white junction and in the white matter of the right hemisphere.

Embolic strokes in an 8-year-old girl

Cheri Landers, MD, Robert Baumann, MD, Carol M. Cottrill, MD, Lexington, KY

Three days before admission, this previously healthy 8-year-old girl developed right shoulder pain and cough. Chest X-ray showed right lower lobe infiltrate and antibiotics were administered. The evening before admission she awoke, vomited, and was confused and incoherent. At her local hospital she continued to be “confused” and had decreased use of her right extremities. At the University of Kentucky Children’s Hospital she was awake and able to follow commands but not to speak. There was weakness of the right face, arm, and leg, and a right visual field defect. Reflexes were abnormally brisk on the right side and left arm. A cardiac murmur was heard. Laboratory tests included a hematocrit of 27 and an erythrocyte sedimentation rate of 63. Cardiac echocardiogram demonstrated a large left atrial tumor (figure A) and a patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) with left-to-right shunting. There was mild

mitral valve obstruction with a mean mitral valve gradient of 6 mm Hg.

Her respiratory symptoms suggest a pulmonary embolus via the PDA several days before a larger embolus occluded the left middle cerebral artery. MR shows previous smaller infarcts and a large left middle cerebral artery infarction (figure, B). MR angiography documented complete occlusion of the left middle cerebral artery. The following morning a myxoma was removed from her left atrium.

Atrial myxoma is easily identified by echocardiography; therefore, young patients with cerebrovascular accident should have an echo to find this unusual but treatable cause of childhood stroke.^{1,2}

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