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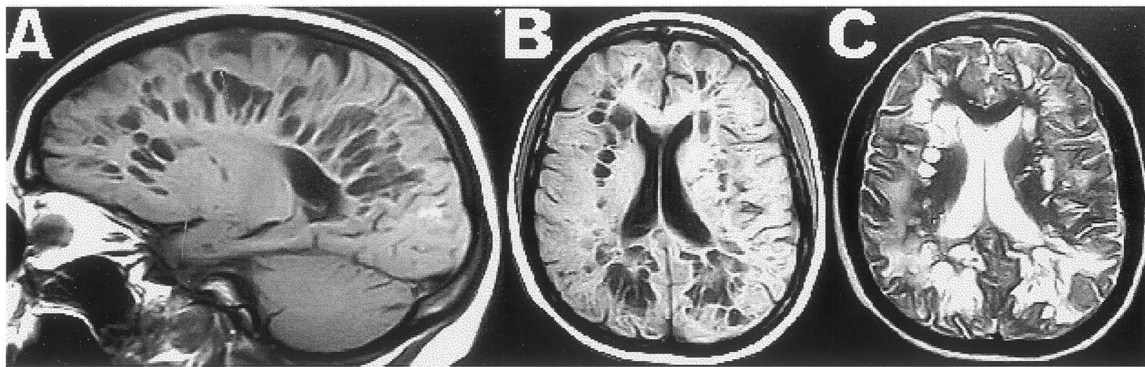


Figure. Sagittal T1-weighted imaging (A) identifies multiple tubular structures in the distribution of the perforating arteries. They are differentiated from lacunae by their location, lack of peripheral hyperintensity on fluid-attenuated inversion recovery (FLAIR) images (FLAIR images [B] and T2-weighted images [C]), and convergence toward the ventricles (A–C).

Unusually prominent perivascular spaces

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A 50-year-old right-handed woman was referred for evaluation of abnormal MRI studies (figure) that were obtained because of a 2-month history of left ear pain, which had resolved in the interim. Results of neurologic and comprehensive neuropsychologic evaluation were normal.

Virchow–Robin spaces (VRS) are perivascular extensions of the pia mater accompanying the perforating arteries (but not the veins) of the brain. VRS can be seen at any age but tend to enlarge with aging.¹ Prominent

VRS also occur in the periventricular and supraventricular white matter and rarely mimic pathologic lesions,² such as cystic infection, mucopolysaccharidosis, lacunar infarction, and MS.

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