

Figure 1. Ophthalmoscopy shows retinal angiomas of the right eye after laser photocoagulation.

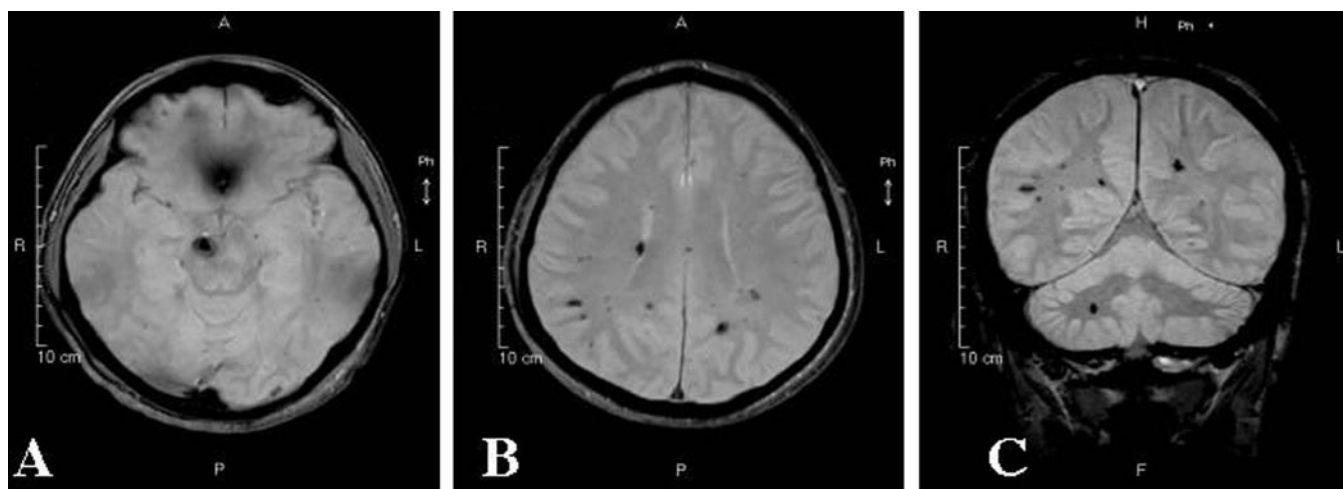


Figure 2. (A, B) Axial and (C) coronal T2*-weighted gradient echo MRI shows multiple signal loss lesions in the brain.

Familial cavernous angiomas

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A 49-year-old man had a physical check-up, including brain MRI. At 19 years of age, retinal hemorrhage was pointed out. He received laser photocoagulation therapy in the right eye. A family history suggested that his 74-year-old mother had angiomas in the brain, retina and skin of the left thigh. She developed cerebral hemorrhage after treatment with an anti-thrombotic agent in ischemic stroke. A 20-year-old son had also multiple angiomas in

the brain. Physical examination showed angioma in the skin of the left foot. Ophthalmoscopy showed angiomas in both fundus oculi (figure 1). Brain T2*-weighted gradient echo MRI revealed multiple round signal loss areas in the brain stem, cerebellum, and cerebral white matter (figure 2). Familial cerebral cavernous angiomas are reported in large Hispanic and French families.^{1,2} Our Japanese three-generation family indicates that cerebral, retinal, and cutaneous cavernous angiomas were inherited as an autosomal dominant trait. Gene mutation of cerebral cavernous malformations is currently being analyzed.

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