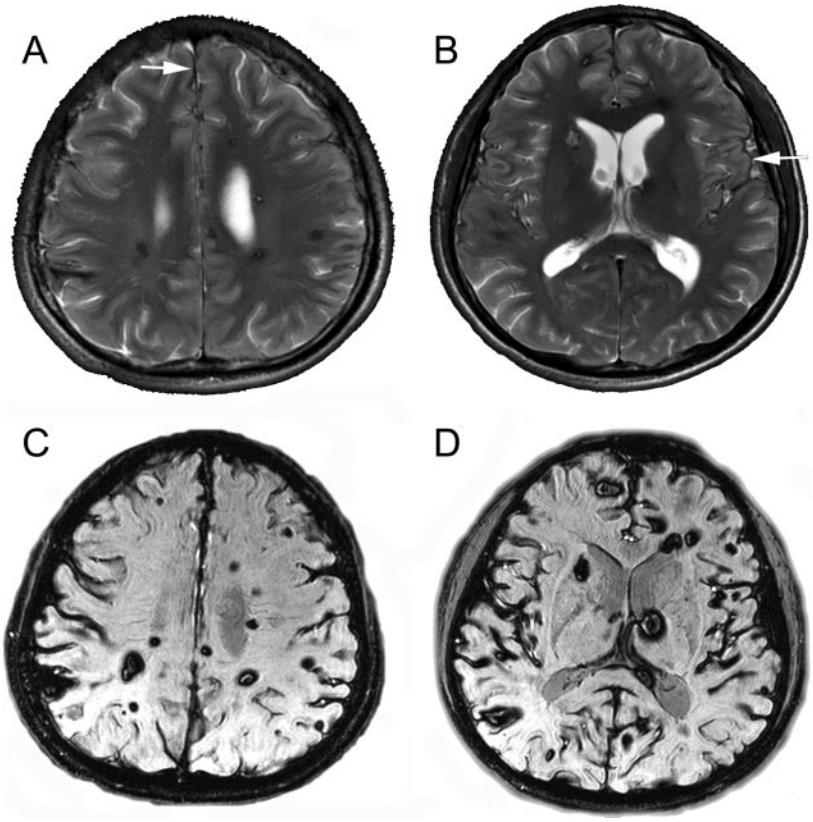
Superficial siderosis of the CNS associated with multiple cerebral cavernous malformation

Figure **Axial MR T2-weighted images (A, B) and susceptibility-weighted images (C, D) demonstrating multiple low signal intensity lesions in the bilateral frontal, parietal, temporal lobes and basal ganglia**



The images also show superficial hypointensity around the sylvian fissures, cerebral cortical sulci, and the anterior part of the interhemispheric fissure (arrow).

A 19-year-old man presented with a sudden onset of headache and vomiting for 3 days. Neurologic examination was unremarkable but revealed a slightly stiff neck. MRI showed multiple cerebral cavernous malformations in the brain. T2-weighted and susceptibility-weighted images exhibited linear hypointensity around the brain surface, indicating a deposition of hemosiderin consistent with superficial siderosis (figure).

Superficial siderosis of the CNS is a rare condition caused by hemosiderin deposition in the subpial layer of the brain and spinal cord. Such a deposition is due to repeated chronic subarachnoid hemorrhage.[1] Cavernous malformations were less frequently reported as a cause of superficial siderosis.[2]

Jin Wang, MD, Xiangyang Gong, MD, PhD,
Hangzhou, China

Disclosure: The authors report no disclosures.

Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. Jin Wang, Department of Neurology, Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine, Sir Run Run Shaw Institute of Clinical Medicine of Zhejiang University, 3 Qingchun Road, Hangzhou, 310016, China; wangjinjoy@hotmail.com

1. Kumar N, Cohen-Gadol AA, Wright RA, Miller GM, Piepgras DG, Ahlskog JE. Superficial siderosis. Neurology 2006;66:1144–1152.
2. Li KW, Haroun RI, Clatterbuck RE, Murphy K, Rigamonti D. Superficial siderosis associated with multiple cavernous malformations: report of three cases. Neurosurgery 2001;48:1147–1150.

Superficial siderosis of the CNS associated with multiple cerebral cavernous malformation

Jin Wang and Xiangyang Gong

Neurology 2009;72;1187
DOI 10.1212/01.wnl.0000345359.14275.f2