

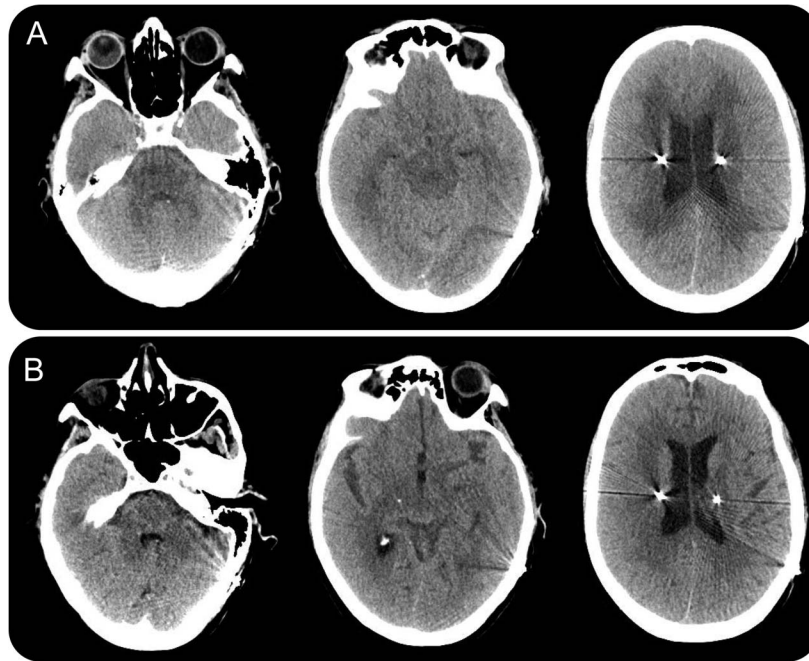
Teaching NeuroImages: Massive cerebral edema after CT myelography

An optical illusion

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Figure Neuroimaging findings at presentation and the following day



Noncontrast CT scan at presentation (A) shows loss of the sulcal pattern and gray-white distinction, relatively decreased attenuation of the white matter, deep gray structures, and brainstem, and effacement of the basal cisterns and fourth ventricle. Repeat noncontrast CT scan (B) shows marked improvement. Also evident are bilateral deep brain stimulator leads and an old right retinal detachment.

A 74-year-old woman underwent myelography with iohexol to exclude a CSF leak. Three days later, her son noticed mild facial asymmetry and took her back to the hospital. Neurologic status was at baseline except for minimal left nasolabial flattening. Initial head CT appeared to show diffuse cerebral edema (figure, A), but the following morning the appearance had normalized (figure, B). Based on the spontaneous clinicoradiologic improvement, we hypothesize that an illusion of cerebral edema was caused by residual iohexol. Although not reported with iohexol, older agents

can cause hyperdense gray matter and can accumulate in sulci.¹

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DISCLOSURE

The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

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