

Teaching NeuroImages: High-resolution MRI before and during a sentinel headache demonstrates aneurysm wall hemorrhage

Radhia Ait Chalal, MD, Myriam Edjlali, PhD, Wagih Ben Hassen, MD, Catherine Lamy, MD, Gregoire Boulouis, MD, Christine Rodriguez Regent, MD, Denis Trystram, MD, Jean-Francois Meder, PhD, Catherine Oppenheim, PhD, and Olivier Naggara, PhD

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Correspondence

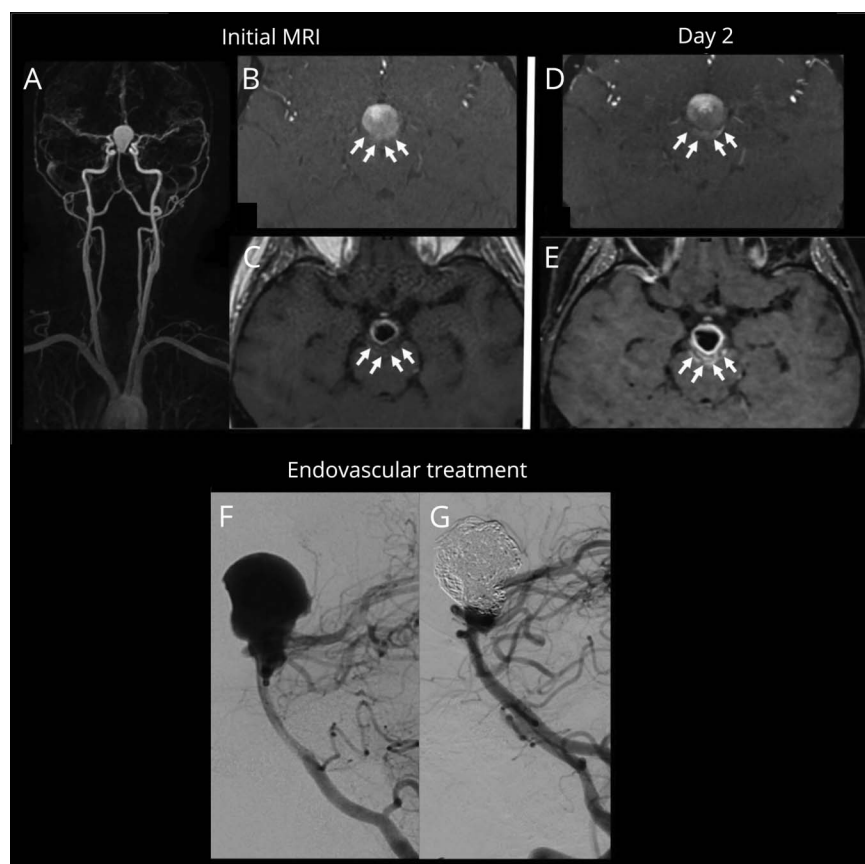
Dr. Naggara
o.naggara@ghu-paris.fr

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A 3T brain MRI, performed in a 48-year-old woman presenting with progressive headaches, demonstrated a 20-mm unruptured saccular basilar artery aneurysm. High-resolution vessel-wall MRI showed a chronic mural thrombus and a circumferential aneurysm wall enhancement (figure), an imaging marker of aneurysm instability.¹ Two days later, she had

Figure High-resolution vessel wall MRI before and during sentinel headache



(A) Giant basilar tip aneurysm on magnetic resonance angiography. Comparison between high-resolution vessel-wall imaging performed before (B, C) and during sentinel headache (D, E) demonstrates aneurysm wall mural hematoma modification with T1-crescentic hyperintensity and contrast uptake (arrows) and thickened circumferential aneurysm wall enhancement. Digital subtracted angiography, lateral view, is shown before (F) and after (G) aneurysm coiling.

From the Departments of Neuroradiology (R.A.C., M.E., W.B.H., G.B., C.R.R., D.T., J.-F.M., C.O., O.N.) and Neurology (C.L.), Centre Hospitalier Sainte-Anne, GHU Paris Psychiatrie & Neurosciences, Paris University, INSERM UMR 1266, Paris, France.

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a transient thunderclap headache, considered the worst headache she had ever reported. Repeated 3T MRI demonstrated acute mural hemorrhage without subarachnoid hemorrhage. Sentinel headaches, reported in every fourth patient preceding aneurysm rupture,² have been interpreted as reflecting a warning for subarachnoid leak or, alternatively, structural wall changes, such as stretching or acute mural hemorrhage.

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Disclosure

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Appendix Authors

Name	Location	Contribution
Radhia Ait Chalal, MD	Department of Neuroradiology, Centre Hospitalier Sainte-Anne, GHU Paris Psychiatrie & Neurosciences, Paris University, INSERM UMR 1266, Paris, France	Analysis and interpretation of data
Myriam Edjlali, PhD	Department of Neuroradiology, Centre Hospitalier Sainte-Anne, GHU Paris Psychiatrie & Neurosciences, Paris University, INSERM UMR 1266, Paris, France	Critical revision of manuscript for intellectual content, analysis and interpretation of data
Wagih Ben Hassen, MD	Department of Neuroradiology, Centre Hospitalier Sainte-Anne, GHU Paris Psychiatrie & Neurosciences, Paris University, INSERM UMR 1266, Paris, France	Critical revision of manuscript for intellectual content, analysis and interpretation of data
Catherine Lamy, MD	Department of Neurology, Centre Hospitalier Sainte-Anne, GHU Paris Psychiatrie & Neurosciences, Paris University, INSERM UMR 1266, Paris, France	Analysis and interpretation of data

Appendix (continued)

Name	Location	Contribution
Gregoire Boulouis, MD	Department of Neuroradiology, Centre Hospitalier Sainte-Anne, GHU Paris Psychiatrie & Neurosciences, Paris University, INSERM UMR 1266, Paris, France	Critical revision of manuscript for intellectual content, analysis and interpretation of data
Christine Rodriguez Regent, MD	Department of Neuroradiology, Centre Hospitalier Sainte-Anne, GHU Paris Psychiatrie & Neurosciences, Paris University, INSERM UMR 1266, Paris, France	Analysis and interpretation of data
Denis Trystram, MD	Department of Neuroradiology, Centre Hospitalier Sainte-Anne, GHU Paris Psychiatrie & Neurosciences, Paris University, INSERM UMR 1266, Paris, France	Analysis and interpretation of data
Jean-Francois Meder, PhD	Department of Neuroradiology, Centre Hospitalier Sainte-Anne, GHU Paris Psychiatrie & Neurosciences, Paris University, INSERM UMR 1266, Paris, France	Critical revision of manuscript for intellectual content
Catherine Oppenheim, PhD	Department of Neuroradiology, Centre Hospitalier Sainte-Anne, GHU Paris Psychiatrie & Neurosciences, Paris University, INSERM UMR 1266, Paris, France	Critical revision of manuscript for intellectual content
Olivier Naggara, PhD	Department of Neuroradiology, Centre Hospitalier Sainte-Anne, GHU Paris Psychiatrie & Neurosciences, Paris University, INSERM UMR 1266, Paris, France	Study concept and design, critical revision of manuscript for intellectual content, study supervision

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