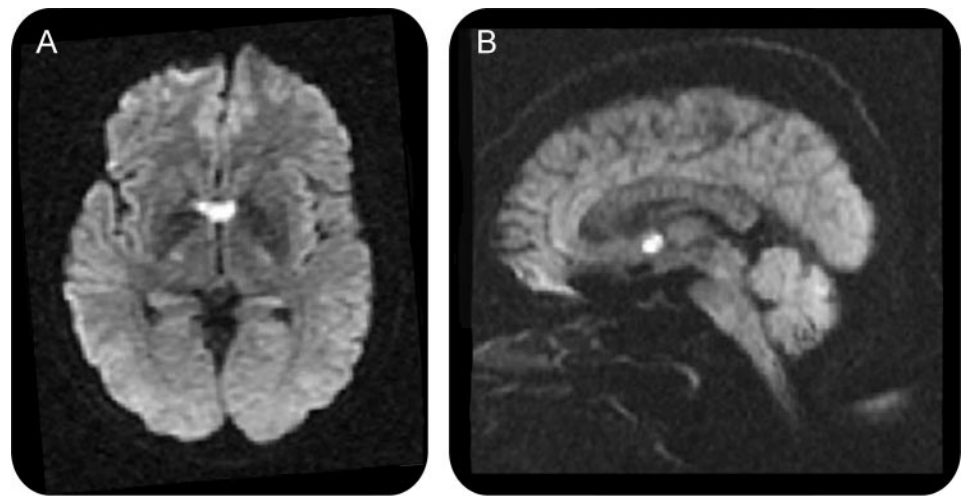


Teaching NeuroImages: Amnesia due to fornix infarction

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Figure Diffusion-weighted axial (A) and sagittal (B) MRI demonstrating an acute infarction of the anterior fornices



A 53-year-old right-handed teacher developed acute confusion and short-term memory difficulties, including significant retrograde and anterograde amnesia. Intellect remained intact. She repeated phrases spoken recently without recall and asked inappropriate questions.

Mini-Mental State Examination was normal except for inability to recall any of 3 objects after 5 minutes. She had no other neurologic abnormalities. CT angiogram and transesophageal echocardiogram showed no thromboembolic source. Amnesia persisted 2 months later.

Amnesia with infarction of anterior fornices (figure) has been rarely described. Small vessel disease of the perforating branches arising from the anterior cerebral or anterior communicating arteries^{1,2} was the likely source of the infarct.

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