Teaching Neuro*Images*: MRI in Ramsay-Hunt syndrome after trigeminal zoster

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Figure 1 Photograph of patient with right facial mandibular distribution zoster

A 22-year-old man developed painful tongue swelling, a right facial rash, and right lower motor neuron facial palsy over 2 weeks. On examination he had a vesicular rash in a mandibular distribution and on the concha of the right earlobe, and right peripheral facial palsy (figure 1). T2-weighted MRI revealed high signal intensity in the spinal trigeminal tract (figure 2, A and B), and T1-weighted gadolinium-enhanced MRI revealed right facial nerve enhancement in the labyrinthine segment (figure 2C). MRI findings of spinal trigeminal nucleus and tract involvement in trigeminal zoster,[1] and of facial nerve enhancement in Ramsay-Hunt syndrome,[2] have been reported. Our patient developed trigeminal zoster and Ramsay-Hunt syndrome sequentially, and we confirmed corresponding abnormalities on MRI.

REFERENCES

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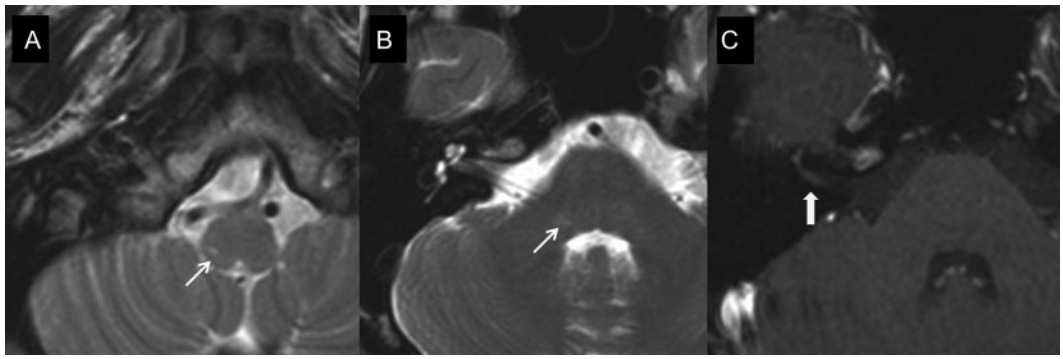
Figure 2 MRIs of the patient



Axial T2-weighted MRIs show high signal intensity in the right lower pons and medulla posteriorly and laterally (A, B) (arrows) corresponding to the location of the spinal trigeminal tract. Axial T1-weighted gadolinium-enhanced MRI reveals right facial nerve enhancement in the labyrinthine segment (C) (arrow).

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