Ominous Etiology of Blurry Vision

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Keywords

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An elderly woman with cell lung squamous cell carcinoma presented with blurry vision. Examination revealed left homonymous hemianopia, and magnetic resonance imaging

(MRI) demonstrated a right occipital and small bihemispheric infarcts (Figure 1A and B). Fluid-attenuated inversion recovery study raised suspicion of an underlying left occipital mass

Figure 1. A, Right occipital diffusion restriction. B, Bi-hemispheric diffuse infarcts noted. C, Fluid-attenuated inversion recovery (FLAIR) study suspicious for an underlying mass on the left occipital pole. D, Contrast-enhancing masses in the left occipital lobe.

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Figure 2. A, Stenosis of the right P2 branch of the posterior cerebral artery (black solid arrow). B, Transesophageal echocardiogram demonstrating a highly mobile mass extending from the pulmonary vein into the left atrium (white arrow). C and D, Coronal and axial positron emission tomography (PET) scan showing hypermetabolic lung carcinoma extending toward the heart.

(Figure 1C) confirmed by contrasted MRI (Figure 1D). Magnetic resonance angiography revealed a flow-limiting stenosis of the right P2 branch of the posterior cerebral artery (Figure 2A). Echocardiogram showed a nefarious mobile mass extending into the left atrium (Figure 2B). Initially suspected to be a thrombus, a positron emission tomography scan revealed a hypermetabolic lung mass extending into the left pulmonary vein (Figure 2C-coronal and D-axial).

In patients with cancer, infarcts are primarily due to hypercoagulable state or nonbacterial valvular thrombotic endocarditis. Tumor emboli occur in 2.7% of the patients.¹ Transesophageal echocardiography is essential for diagnosis. Anticoagulation,² cardiac tumor resection,³ or pneumonectomy⁴ are available options for lung malignancy, but tumor emboli unfortunately have an ominous prognosis.⁵

Authors' Note

Joseph Zachariah contributed to study design, data collection, and drafting the manuscript. Parul Nijhawan contributed to data collection and drafting the manuscript. Sunil Manjila contributed to revising the manuscript and data interpretation.

Declaration of Conflicting Interests

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