

# Neurological Emergencies/ CNS Infections

Majed Habahbeh

# Neurological Emergencies-At least 20% of Medical ER visits

- Coma.
- Meningitis/encephalitis
- Acute Stroke.
- Seizures/ Status epilepticus.
- Acute headaches/Subarachnoid hemorrhage.
- Acute flaccid paralysis - limbs, bulbar, respiratory (Guillain-Barre' Syndrome, Myasthenia Gravis...)
- Acute myelopathy/spinal cord compression
- Vision loss ( Optic Neuritis, Papilledema )
- Vertigo ( posterior circulation stroke)

# Components of Consciousness

## Components of Consciousness

- **Arousal** → Level of Consciousness
- **Awareness** → Content of Consciousness

## Consciousness

### Arousal

Alert  
Awake  
Eyes open  
Vigilant

### Awareness

Attention  
Perception  
Interaction

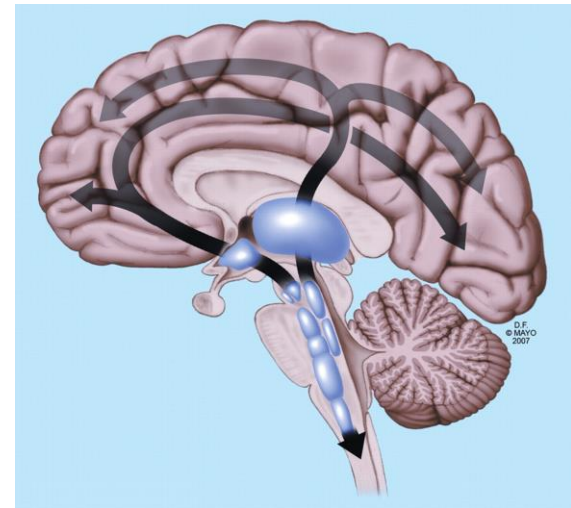
Executive function

Consciousness

# Anatomy of consciousness

- **Level of consciousness** is regulated by the ascending reticular activating system in the midbrain and pons with projections to the thalamus and cortex.
- **Content of consciousness**

The main pathways connecting the ascending reticular formation with the thalamus and cortex.

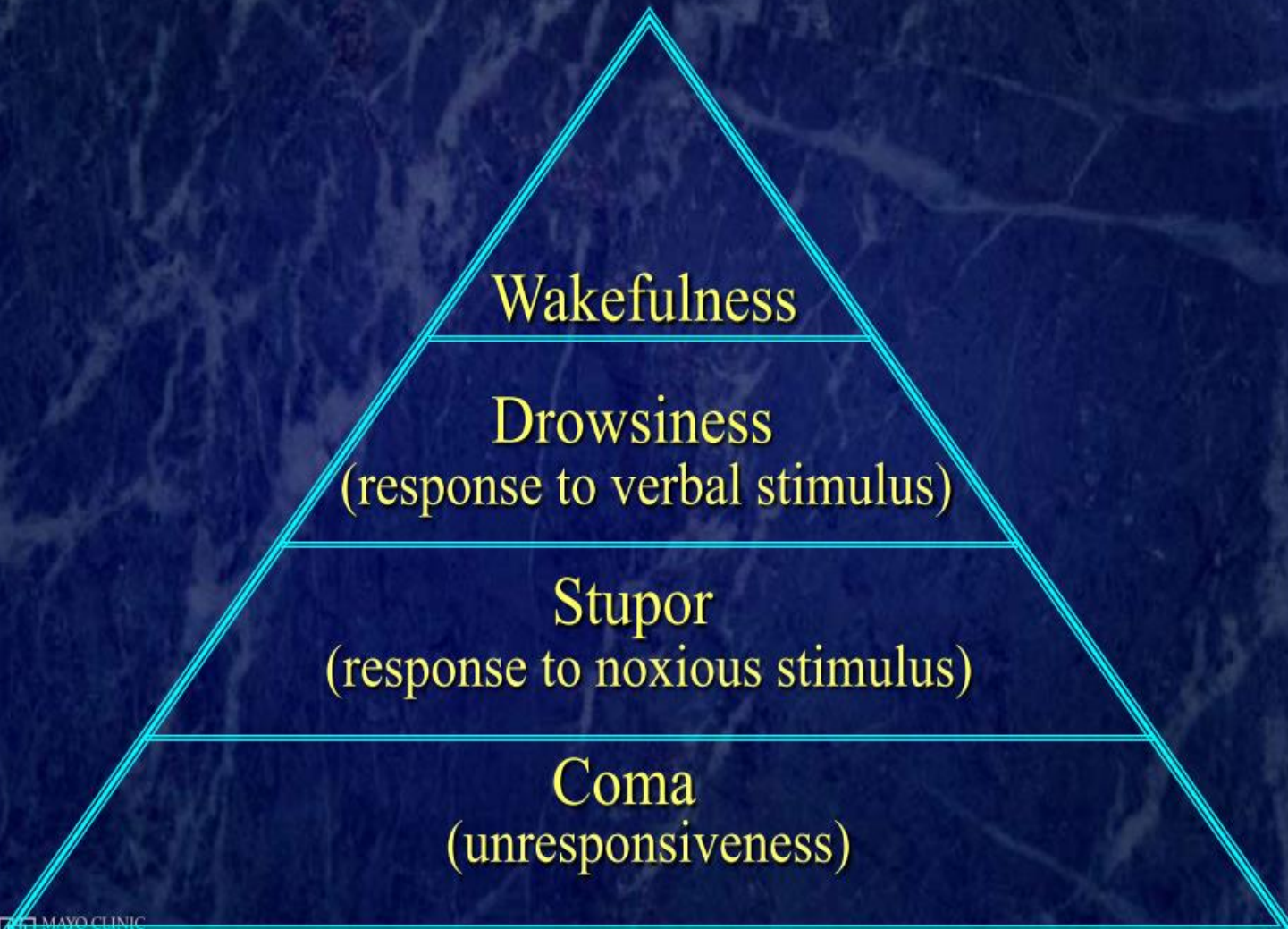


Wijdicks E F M Pract Neurol 2010;10:51-60

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# Levels of Consciousness



Glasgow Coma Scale		
<b>Eye Response</b>	Open Spontaneously	4
	Open to Verbal command	3
	Open in response to pain	2
	No response	1
<b>Verbal Response</b>	Talking / Orientated	5
	Confused speech / Disorientated	4
	Inappropriate Words	3
	Incomprehensible sounds	2
	No response	1
<b>Motor Response</b>	Obeys commands	6
	Localizes pain	5
	Withdraws from pain	4
	Abnormal flexion	3
	Extension	2
	No response	1

Coma is defined as a completely unawake patient unresponsive to external stimuli

Brainstem reflexes can be intact or absent



# Evaluation of the Comatose Patient

- All causes of coma fall into one of the following major categories :

1. Structural injury of both cerebral hemisphere or one hemisphere causing mass effect and midline shift.
2. Intrinsic brainstem injury, or compression from surrounding damaged tissue (Cerebellum)
3. Acute metabolic or endocrine derangement
4. Diffuse physiological brain dysfunction-seizures, anoxia, drug toxicity

# Structural brain injury of Cerebral hemisphere(s)

## Unilateral with displacement

- Intraparenchymal hematoma
- Middle cerebral artery ischemic stroke
- Cerebral venous thrombosis
- Cerebral abscess
- Brain tumor
- Subdural or epidural hematoma

## Bilateral

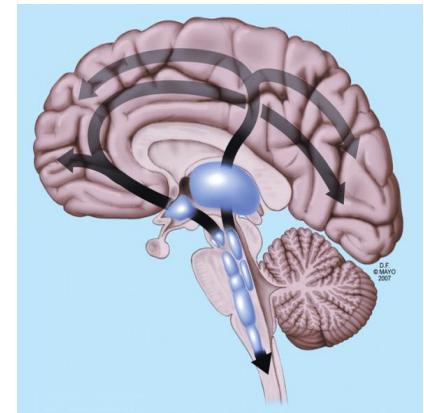
- Subarachnoid hemorrhage
- Traumatic brain injury
- Multiple cerebral infarcts
- Bilateral thalamic infarcts
- Tumors
- Meningitis/encephalitis
- Cerebral edema
- Acute hydrocephalus
- Posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES)
- Air or fat embolism.



# Intrinsic brainstem injury, or compression from surrounding damaged tissue

- Pontine hemorrhage
- Basilar artery occlusion and brainstem infarct
- Central pontine myelinolysis
- Brainstem hemorrhagic contusion
- Cerebellar infarct
- Cerebellar hematoma
- Cerebellar abscess
- Cerebellar glioma

The main pathways connecting the ascending reticular formation with the thalamus and cortex.



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## CAUSES OF COMA WITHOUT FOCAL SIGNS

Toxic	Alcohol, carbon monoxide, lead, cyanide, thallium, sedative drugs
Metabolic	Uraemia, hyperammonaemia, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, anoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy, hypercarbnia, hypo/hyper-natraemia, hypo/hyper-calcaemia, hypermagnesaemia, hypoglycaemia, hypothermia, hyperpyrexia, Wernicke's
Epileptic	Convulsive/non-convulsive status epilepticus
Endocrine	Hypopituitarism, hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, hypoadrenalism, Hashimoto's encephalopathy

# Acute metabolic/endocrine derangement

- Hypoglycemia ( $<40\text{-}50\text{ mg/dl}$ )
- Hyperglycemia ( Ketotic and Non-ketotic)
- Hyponatremia ( $<110\text{ mmol/l}$ )
- Hypernatremia ( $>160\text{ mmol/l}$ )
- Hypercalcemia ( $>13.5\text{ mg/dl}$ )
- Hypercapnia ( $>65\text{ mmHg}$ )

# What can mimic coma

## 1- locked-in syndrome

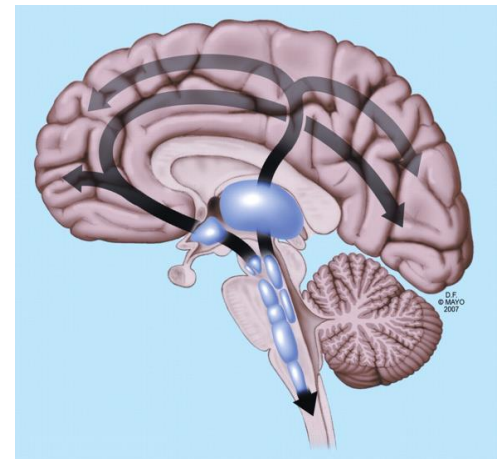
- Eyes open.
- Blink to commands or move their eyes vertically.
- lesion (stroke) in the ventral pons damaging the corticospinal and corticobulbar tracts and sparing the ascending reticular activating system. So they can hear, see and feel pain.

**Patients can be intubated by mistake.**

## 2- Psychogenic unresponsiveness

- **Hysterical coma**
- **Malingering**
- **Acute catatonia**

The main pathways connecting the ascending reticular formation with the thalamus and cortex.



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# Psychogenic unresponsiveness

Considered after exclusion of other causes !!

- The hand drop test is a useful test (one arm is lifted and held in front of the face and when let loose slides next to the patient's face rather than on to it).
- Closed eyes which open with tickling the nose hairs
- Some patients may have forced upward or downward gaze that may suddenly change in direction.
- Others have pseudoseizures- 'fish out of water' flopping.

# Examination of the comatose patient

1. Assess the depth of coma.
2. Determine if there is structural brain pathology and aim to localize it.
3. Determine the underlying cause if possible.

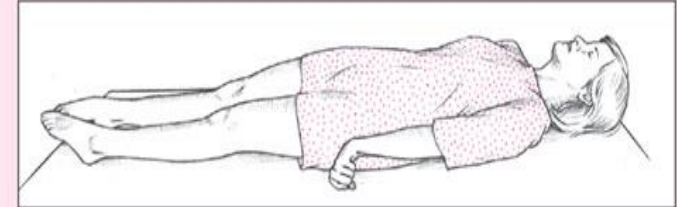


# Glasgow Coma Scale

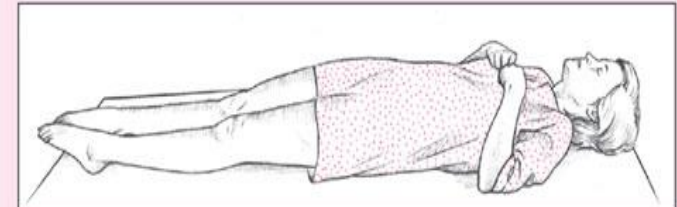
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	Extension	2
	No response	1

## Comparing decerebrate and decorticate postures

Decerebrate posture results from damage to the upper brain stem. In this posture, the arms are adducted and extended, with the wrists pronated and the fingers flexed. The legs are stiffly extended, with plantar flexion of the feet.



Decorticate posture results from damage to one or both corticospinal tracts. In this posture, the arms are adducted and flexed, with the wrists and fingers flexed on the chest. The legs are stiffly extended and internally rotated, with plantar flexion of the feet.



## Record subsets:

$$E() + M() + V() = ?/15$$

A score of < 8 usually indicates coma  
Verbal response can be compromised by endotracheal intubation .... V(T) should be recorded.

# Examination of the comatose patient

1. Assess the depth of coma.
2. Determine if there is structural brain pathology and aim to localize it.
3. Determine the underlying cause if possible.

# Examination of the comatose patient

- Determine if there is structural brain pathology and aim to localize it :
  - meningism
  - focal weakness/ movements
  - pupils / eye position and
  - DTR's and plantar response

Metabolic imbalance



Small, reactive, and regular



Diencephalic dysfunction  
Small and reactive



Dysfunction of tectum (roof)  
of the midbrain  
Large "fixed" hippus



Dysfunction of third cranial nerve  
Sluggish, dilated, and fixed



Pontine dysfunction  
Pinpoint



Midbrain dysfunction  
Midposition and fixed



# Lesion Localisation



- (a) Pinpoint pupils: opioid intoxication or pontine haemorrhage.
- (b) Mid position light fixed pupils (mesencephalic lesion) in downward compression of the upper brainstem from a hemispheric mass but also often the first sign of loss of all brainstem reflexes (brain death).



# Lesion Localisation

- **Roving eye movements** indicate that the brainstem is intact.
- **Skew deviation** of the eyes suggests an acute brainstem injury.
- **Horizontal deviation of the eyes to one side** might be a sign of non-convulsive status epilepticus but also of an ipsilateral hemispheric or contralateral pontine stroke.

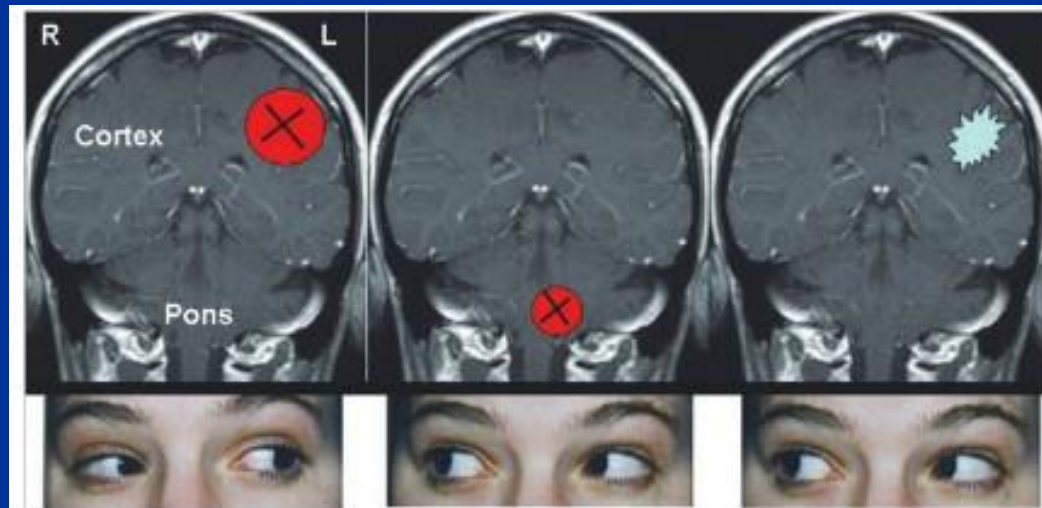


Fig. 13.121 Gaze deviations in cerebral lesions and seizures: the eyes deviate horizontally toward a cortical lesion (left); the eyes deviate horizontally away from a pontine lesion (center); the eyes deviate horizontally away from a cortical seizure focus (right).

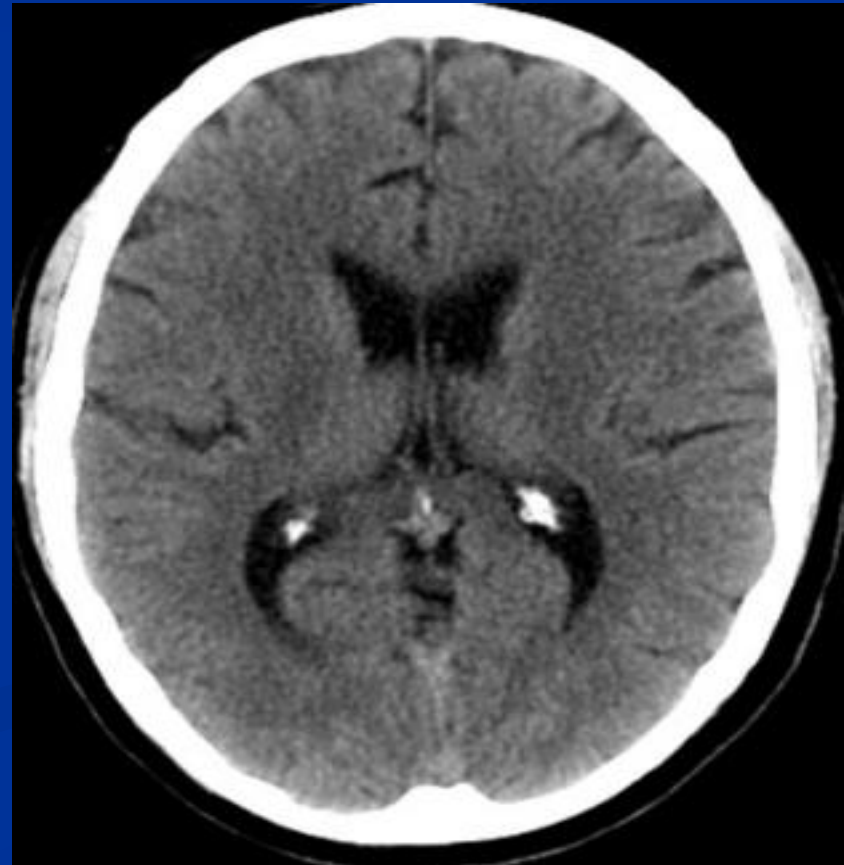


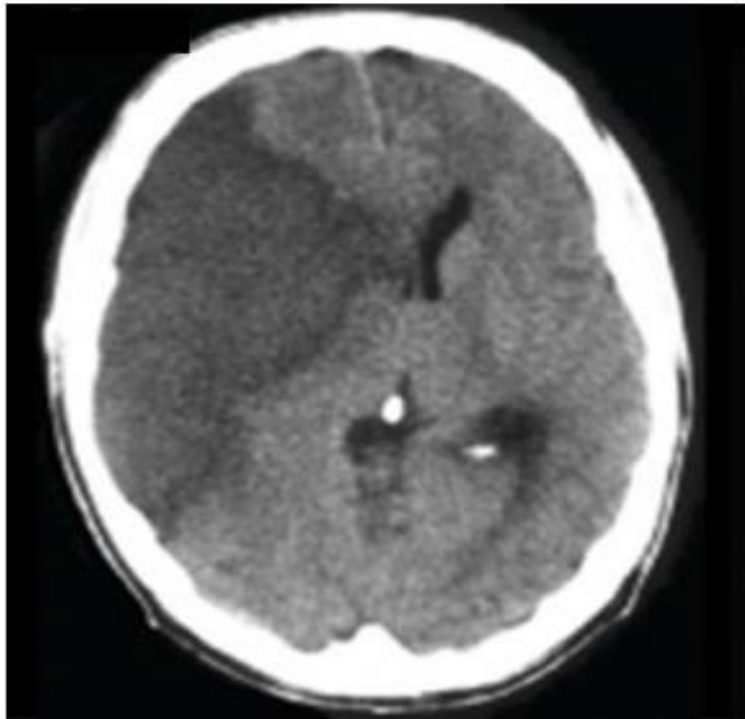
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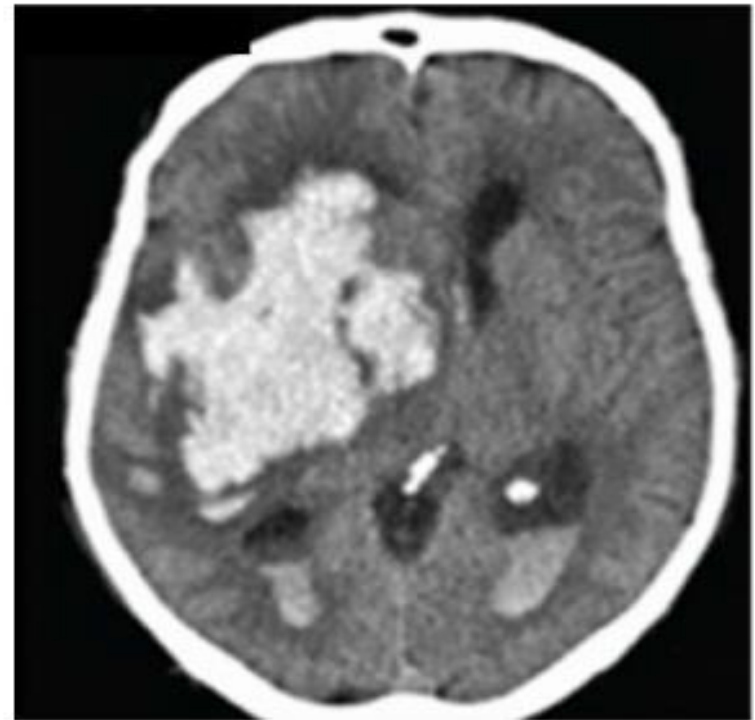
# What is the cause of coma ?

- CT and MRI of the brain are very important in the work-up of a comatose patient. However, **in many cases of coma, the brain CT may be normal or only show minor subtle findings.**





**Ischemic Stroke  
(dark/hypodense)**

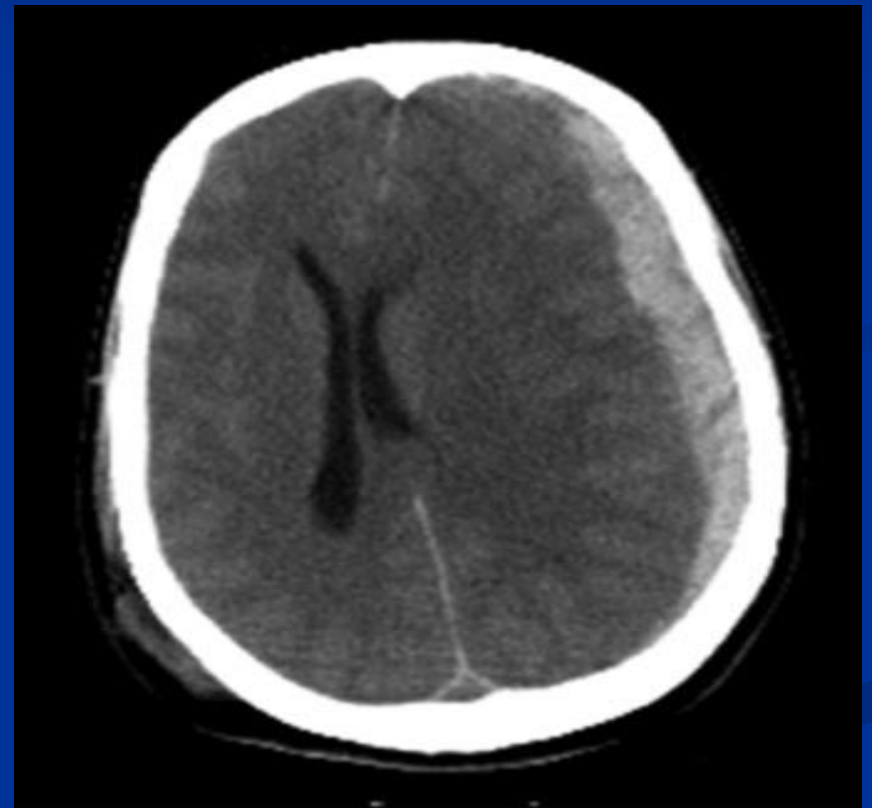


**Hemorrhagic Stroke  
(bright/hyperdense)**

Chronic Subdural Hematoma



Acute Subdural Hematoma



# Management of Coma in the First Hour

- Improve oxygenation (face mask with 10 l/min oxygen flow aiming at a pulse oximeter saturation of  $>95\%$ ).
- Intubate if patient cannot protect the airway (ie, pooling secretions, gurgling sounds) or with increased work of breathing.
- Intubate any comatose patient with irregular ineffective respiratory drive and poor oxygenation.
- Intubate any comatose patient with major facial injury or consider emergency tracheostomy.

# Management of Coma in the First Hour

- No harm is done if a patient with a high likelihood of hypoglycaemia is immediately given 50 ml of 50% glucose, even before the blood sugar is known (with co-administration of 100 mg thiamine intravenously).
- No harm is done administering naloxone if opioid intoxication is suspected.
- Flumazenil reverses any benzodiazepine toxicity.



# Coma due to drugs/toxins



- Careful history ( ? mixed overdose)
- Coma of uncertain etiology ( normal imaging/Ix) should be assumed drug-induced until proven otherwise and patients supported aggressively ( ABC).
- Even with deep coma , absent brainstem reflexes and electrocerebral silence on EEG there is potential for complete recovery

# Possible CNS Infection ?

- Acute Bacterial Meningitis
- Viral Encephalitis
- Brain abscess
- Subdural Empyema
- Cerebral Malaria –causes rapidly progressive coma
- TB Meningitis



High index of suspicion is necessary esp. in immunosuppressed (DM, Cancer, Steroids, Biologics, HIV)

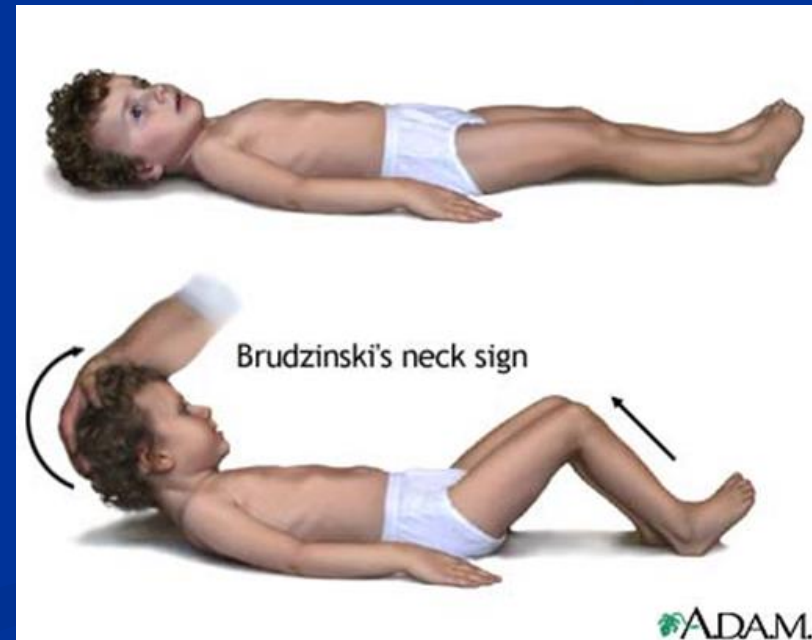
# Acute bacterial Meningitis (ABM)

- Common & serious
- Medical emergency
- 100% curable if treated adequately or 100% fatal
- High index of suspicion important
- Dx by CSF examination

# ABM : Symptoms and Signs

- Early flu-like symptoms
- Worsening headache (+/- Nausea or vomiting)
- Chills/High fever
- Confusion/irritability/difficulty concentrating/drowsiness/coma
- Seizures
- Nuchal rigidity and other meningeal irritation signs/Photophobia
- Purpuric skin rash ( in meningococcal meningitis)
- May develop rapidly over 1-2 days or slowly over many days , esp. in the elderly or immunosuppressed

# Meningeal irritation signs





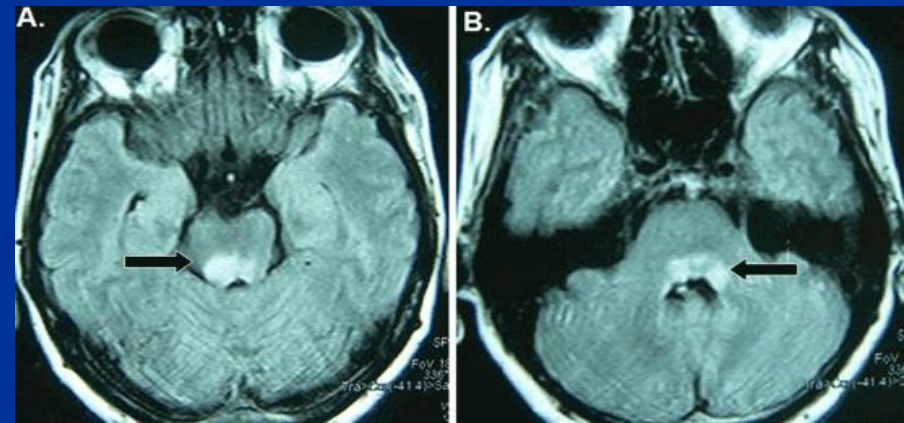
# Meningococcal septicemia rash





# ABM : Etiology

- **Streptococcus pneumoniae (pneumococcus)- Most common cause.**
- **Neisseria meningitidis (meningococcus).** This is a highly contagious infection that affects mainly teenagers and young adults. It may cause local epidemics in college dormitories, boarding schools and military bases.
- **Listeria monocytogenes** - These bacteria can be found in unpasteurized cheeses, hot dogs and lunchmeats. Pregnant women, newborns, older adults and immunocompromized people. Brainstem involvement is common



# ABM

- Diagnosis
  - High index of suspicion very important
  - Confirm by CSF examination
  - If LP is contraindicated ( clinically or by Brain CT) , start empirical antibiotics on suspicion
- CSF: ↑Pressure, turbid, ↑cells (mostly polymorphs), ↑protein, ↓sugar to < 40% of blood sugar, ↑lactate > 2.4 mmol/l
- Gram stain, culture
- PCR

# Treatment of ABM

- Ceftriaxone (2g every 12 hrs) **or** cefotaxime (8–12 g daily, divided doses every 6 h intravenously) +/- Vancomycin (2 g daily, divided dose every 12 h intravenously)
- Add ampicillin (12 g daily, divided dose every 4 h intravenously +/- Gentamicin **if Listeria suspected** (age >55 yrs, immunosuppressed)
- Consider **intravenous dexamethasone 10 mg x 4** with or just before first dose of antibiotics, and continue for 4 days- benefit in **pneumococcal meningitis**

# Viral meningitis

- Viral meningitis is usually mild and often clears on its own.
- Most cases are caused by a group of viruses known as enteroviruses, which are most common in late summer and early fall.
- Viruses such as herpes simplex virus, HIV, mumps, West Nile virus and others also can cause viral meningitis.

# CSF

**Table 1 | Typical cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) findings in infectious meningitis<sup>1 3 14</sup>**

Cause of meningitis	White blood cell count (cells/mm <sup>3</sup> /10 <sup>6</sup> cells/l)	Predominant cell type	CSF: serum glucose (normal $\geq 0.5$ )	Protein (g/l) (normal 0.2-0.4)
Viral	50-1000	Mononuclear (may be neutrophilic early in course)	$>0.5$	0.4-0.8
Bacterial	100-5000	Neutrophilic (mononuclear after antibiotics)	$<0.5$	0.5-2.0
Tuberculous	50-300	Mononuclear	$<0.3$	0.5-3.0
Cryptococcal	20-500	Mononuclear	$<0.5$	0.5-3.0

# Encephalitis

Encephalopathy = (altered consciousness persisting for longer than 24 h, including lethargy, irritability or a change in personality or behaviour)

Encephalitis = encephalopathy AND evidence of CNS inflammation, demonstrated by at least two of:

- > fever
- > seizures or focal neurological findings attributable to the brain parenchyma
- > CSF pleocytosis (more than 4 white cells per  $\mu\text{L}$ )
- > EEG findings suggestive of encephalitis
- > neuroimaging findings suggestive of encephalitis.

# Encephalitis

- Encephalitis may be infectious or autoimmune
- Most common cause of sporadic infectious encephalitis is HSV1. Also HSV2 and VZV.
- Many other viruses and bacteria
- In practice, little distinction may initially be seen between meningitis and encephalitis and the term **meningoencephalitis** is often used – both covered initially.



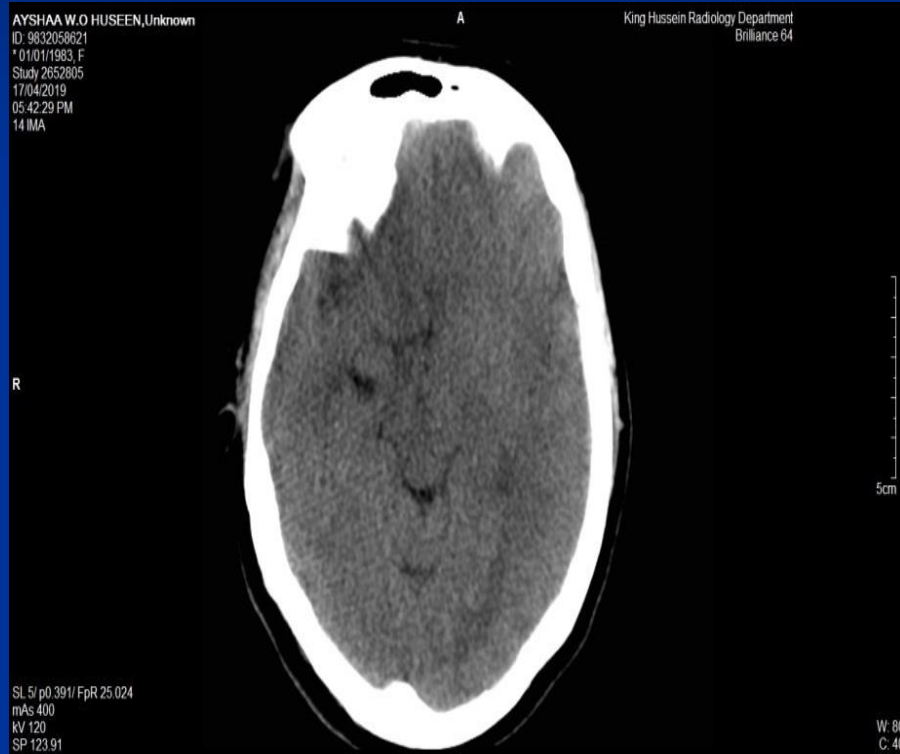
# Herpes simplex virus encephalitis

- Most cases are caused by HSV1, but around 10% are caused by type 2.
- The most distinctive presenting features are fever, disorientation, aphasia and behavioural disturbances, and up to a third of patients have convulsive seizures.

# HSV Encephalitis

- Neuroimaging can be negative acutely, but by 48 hours, over 90% of patients have MR brain imaging abnormalities and sensitivity approaches 100% at 3–10 days.
- MRI shows markedly asymmetric but usually bilateral abnormalities in the limbic system, medial temporal lobes, insular cortices and inferolateral frontal lobes
- CSF clear, pleocytosis +/- . Normal or ↑protein, normal sugar , PCR (may be negative early- repeat after 24-72 hrs)
- Prompt Rx with IV aciclovir 10 mg/kg x3 if any suspicion

# Brain CT in a case of HSV encephalitis



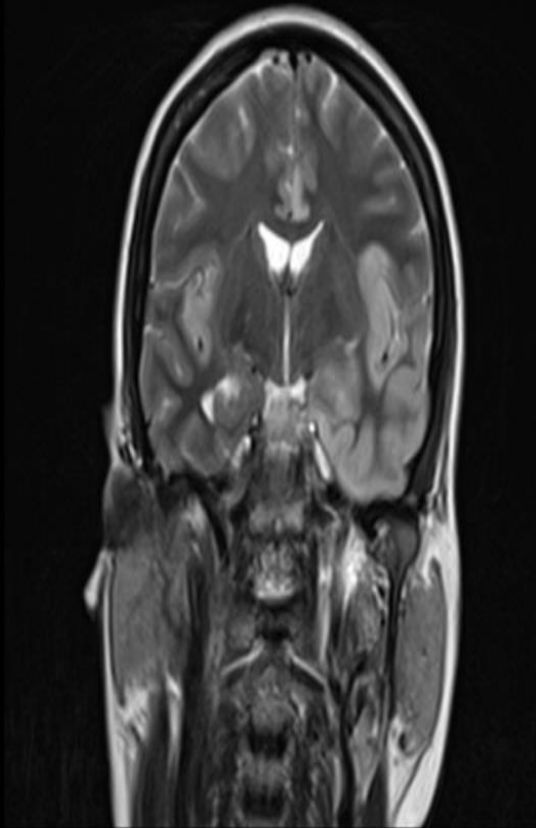
# MRI in previous patient.

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HAL

King Hussein Radiology Department  
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HFS

RA



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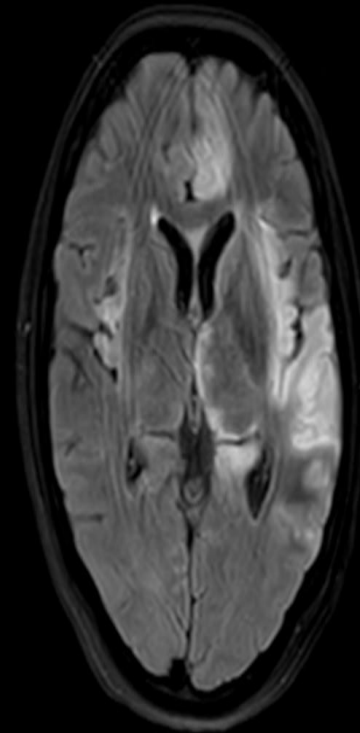
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AHL

King Hussein Radiology Department  
Ingenia  
HFS

RHA



5cm

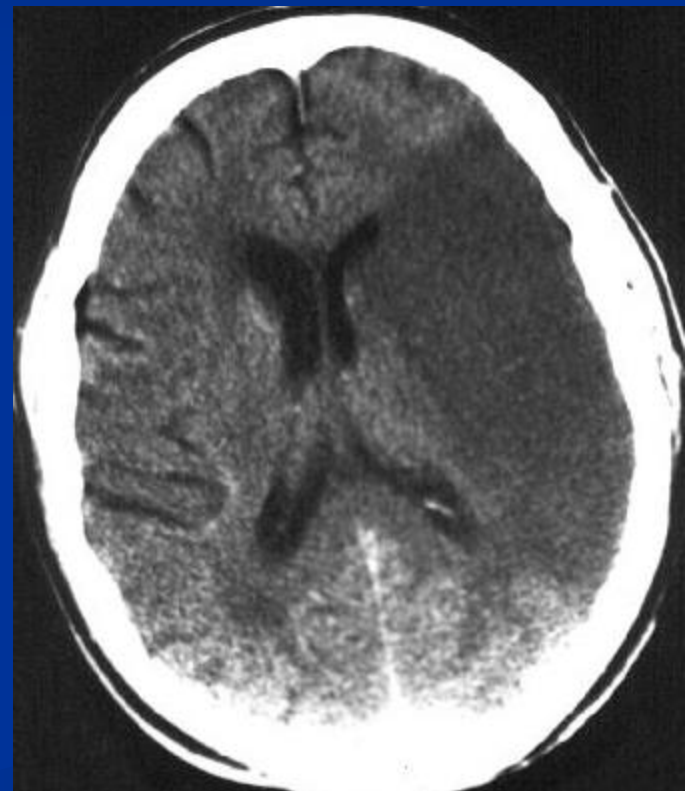
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W: 900  
C: 512

TE 120  
TR 8000  
TI 2500

## Brain Abscess



## Ischemic Infarct







# 1916- Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)

**SUR UN SYNDROME DE RADICULO-NÉVRITE AVEC HYPERALBUMINOSE DU LIQUIDE CÉPHALO-RACHIDIEN SANS RÉACTION CELLULAIRE. REMARQUES SUR LES CARACTÈRES CLINIQUES ET GRAPHIQUES DES RÉFLEXES TENDINEUX,**

**par MM. GEORGES GUILLAIN, J.-A. BARRÉ et A. STROHL.**





# GBS - Clinical Presentation

- GBS is an **acute** immune-mediated **radiculo-neuropathy**. It is the **most frequent** cause of acute flaccid paralysis worldwide and constitutes a neurologic emergency
- It shows a pattern of **symmetrical “ascending paralysis”** in about two thirds of patients, beginning in the lower limbs and then spreading to the upper limbs/trunk/neck/head. **Proximal and distal muscles.**

# GBS - Clinical Presentation

- Maximal weakness at 1-2 weeks.
- It can affect the **facial muscles (50% of cases)** , bulbar and respiratory muscles - 25% of patients need artificial ventilation.
- Extraocular muscle weakness /ptosis - uncommon
- **DTR - Hypo/Areflexia**
- Sensory (mild) and autonomic symptoms.

# Differential diagnosis of acute flaccid paralysis

- Brainstem stroke/  
encephalitis
- Acute myelopathy
  - Spinal cord infarction/haemorrhage
  - Acute transverse myelitis
- Acute poliomyelitis
- Peripheral neuropathy
  - Guillain-Barré syndrome
  - Diphtheritic neuropathy
  - Heavy metals (thallium)
  - Acute intermittent porphyria
  - Vasculitic neuropathy
  - Lymphomatous neuropathy

# Differential diagnosis of acute flaccid paralysis

## ■ Disorders of neuromuscular transmission

- Myasthenia gravis
- Botulism

## ■ Disorders of muscle

- Hypokalaemia / Periodic paralyses
- Hypophosphatemia
- Inflammatory myopathy
- Acute rhabdomyolysis

# Investigations

- CSF – Albumino-cytological dissociation
- NCS – Demyelinating neuropathy (AIDP) >> Axonal (AMAN, AMSAN)
- Spine MRI and blood work-up ( K/P/other electrolytes, CPK ...) to exclude other diagnoses

# GBS triggers

## ■ Infections

Two thirds of cases are associated with an infection a few weeks before the onset of neurological symptoms. The spectrum varies depending on geographical location, and includes:

- *Campylobacter jejuni*
- Cytomegalovirus
- Epstein-Barr virus
- *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* / ? *Haemophilus influenzae*
- Influenza/ ? COVID-19
- Hepatitis E
- HIV seroconversion ( High CSF cell count)

## ■ Postpartum

## ■ Surgery

## ■ Vaccinations ??

# GBS treatment- Immunotherapy

- IVIg ( 0.4 g/kg daily for 5 days ) or
- Plasma exchange ( 4-5 sessions)



# Supportive Management for possible complications

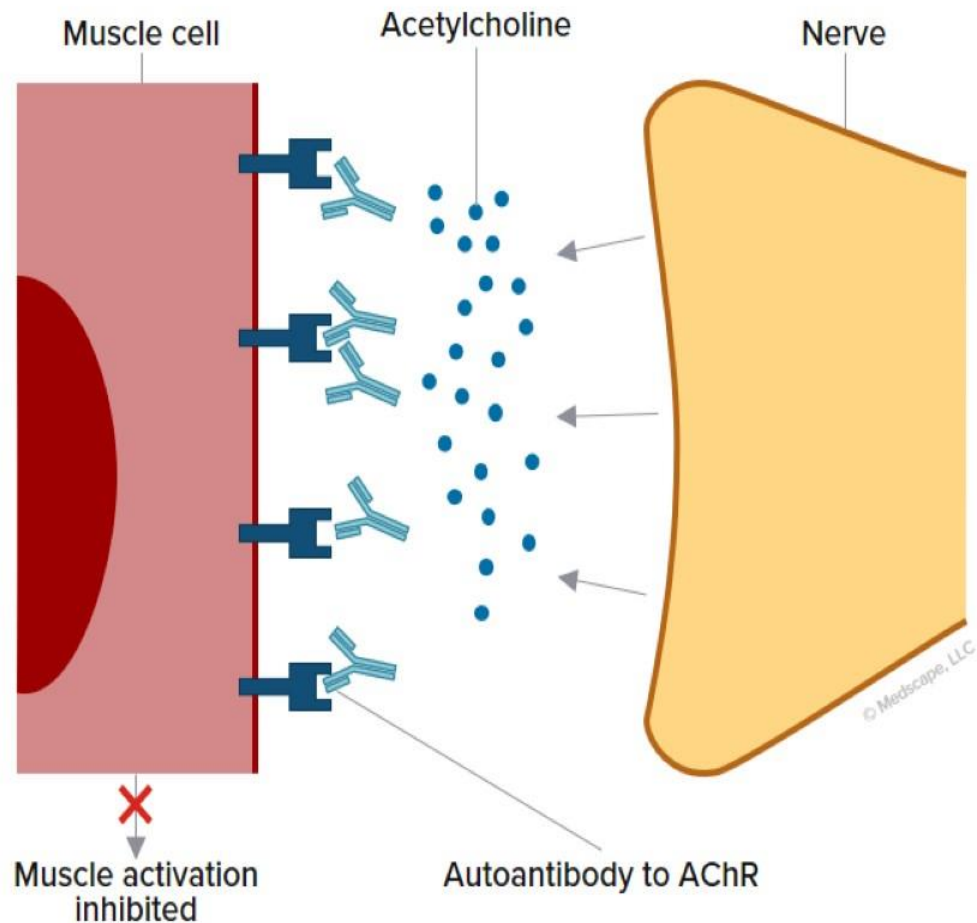
- Careful monitoring of vital capacity (VC) with intubation for those with a VC of  $<15$  ml/kg or which is rapidly dropping
- Twenty five per cent of GBS patients require ventilatory support during their illness, which may be predicted if there is rapid progression of limb weakness, facial or bulbar weakness or dysautonomia .
- Cardiac monitoring for possible arrhythmias throughout the acute stages .
- Venous thromboembolism prophylaxis with compression stockings and low molecular weight heparin is recommended for non-ambulant patients

# Myasthenia gravis

## gMG Pathophysiology

### Autoimmune NMJ Disorder

Characteristic muscle weakness is caused by pathogenic autoantibodies that bind to components of the NMJ<sup>[a]</sup>



# Myasthenia Gravis

## ■ Epidemiology

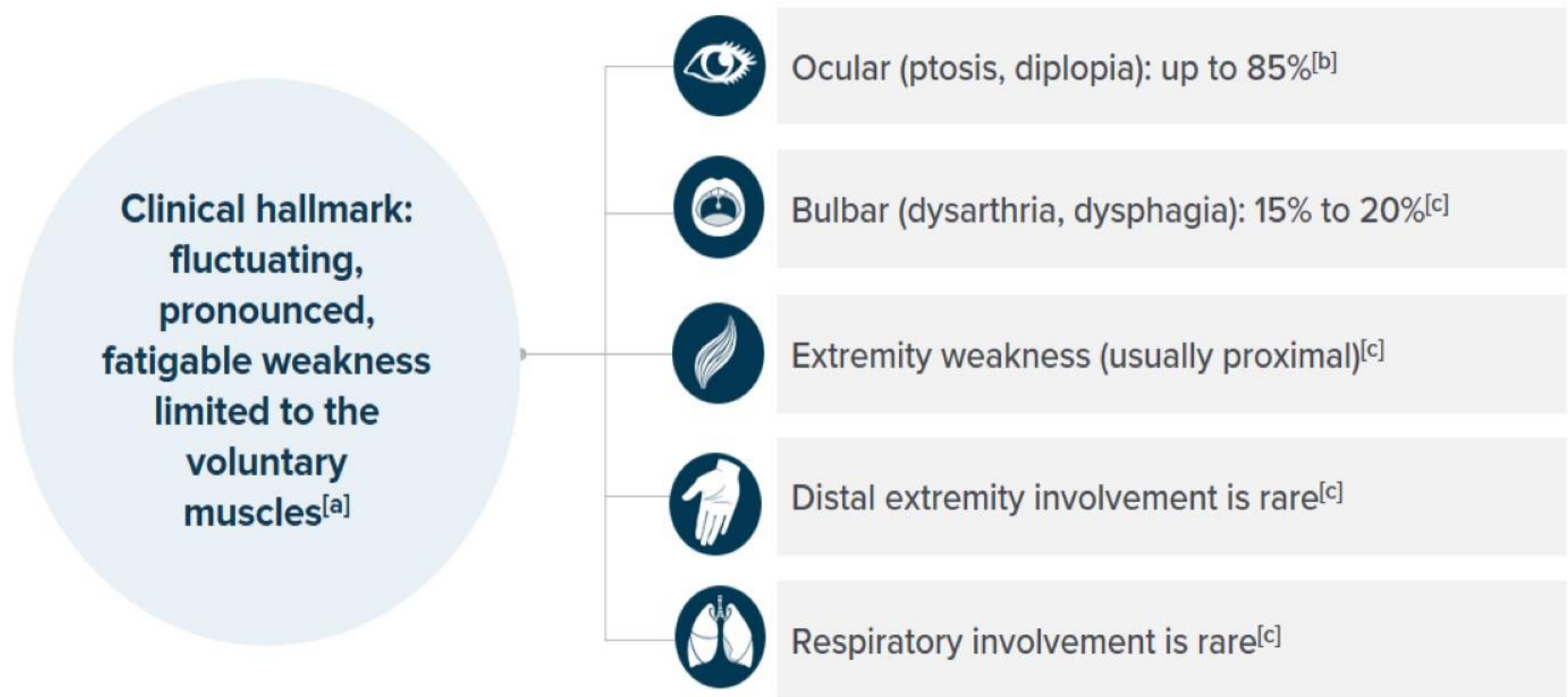
- Prevalence: 2-14/100,000
- Two peaks: 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> decade
- Rarely familial

## ■ Presentation

- Ocular: diplopia, ptosis (50-60%)
- Bulbar or limb weakness (30-35%)
- Respiratory failure: rare as a presenting sx

# Myasthenia gravis

## Clinical Presentation (cont)



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# MG: Weakness-1

- **Variable**: worsens with physical activity and improves with rest; worse at the end of the day
- **Ocular**
  - Ptosis and/or diplopia
  - Usually asymmetric
  - Normal Pupils
- **Facial**: very common
- **Bulbar**
  - Dysarthria; weak mastication
  - Abnormal gag reflex; weak palate, tongue
- **Respiratory**
  - Weak diaphragm and intercostals: SOB, weak cough, decreased counting/one breath
  - May result from vocal cord paralysis

# MG: Weakness-2

- **Neck:** Extensors weakness (head droop)
- **Limb weakness**
  - Proximal > distal
  - Arms > legs
  - Usually symmetric
  - Predilection for certain muscles: triceps, quadriceps
  - Limb-girdle myasthenia (limited to limbs, 2%)

# MG: investigations

- The orbital Ice Test
- IV Edrophonium Test ??
- Serum Autoantibodies
  - Anti-Acetylcholine Receptor antibodies
  - Anti-Muscle-Specific Kinase (MuSK) antibodies
  - Anti-striational antibodies
  - New antibodies
- Electrophysiological tests
  - Repetitive Nerve Stimulation
  - Single Fiber EMG
- CT scan of the chest for thymoma or thymic hyperplasia





# MG Treatment

- Myasthenic crisis Rx (IVIg or PE)
- Long-term Rx
  - Oral steroids/immunosuppressives
  - Acetylcholinesterase inhibitors
  - Thymectomy
  - Rituximab and new monoclonals

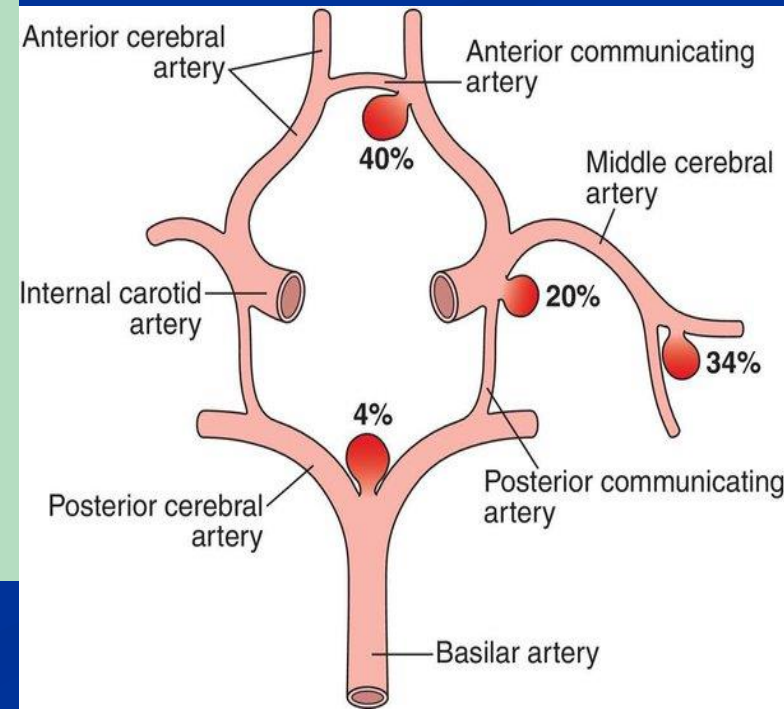
# Thunderclap Headache

- Very severe, maximal severity at onset
- Feels like being “hit on the head with a bat”
- Commonly occipital
- 25% associated with Subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH)

# Subarachnoid hemorrhage

## Non-traumatic causes

Intracranial aneurysms: degenerative	60-70%
Peri-mesencephalic haemorrhages	15-20%
Arteriovenous malformations and associated aneurysms	5-10%
Other causes:	~ 5%
Dural fistula	
Venous vascular abnormalities	
Spinal arteriovenous malformations	
Cerebral artery dissections	
Moyamoya syndrome	
Vasculopathies	
Mycotic aneurysms	
Coagulopathies	
Neoplasia	
Pituitary apoplexy	
Drug abuse: amphetamine and cocaine	

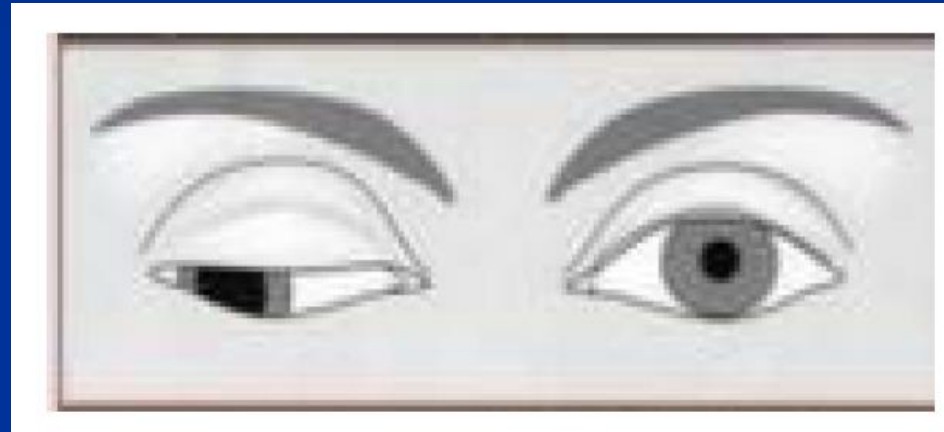


# Classic Symptoms of SAH

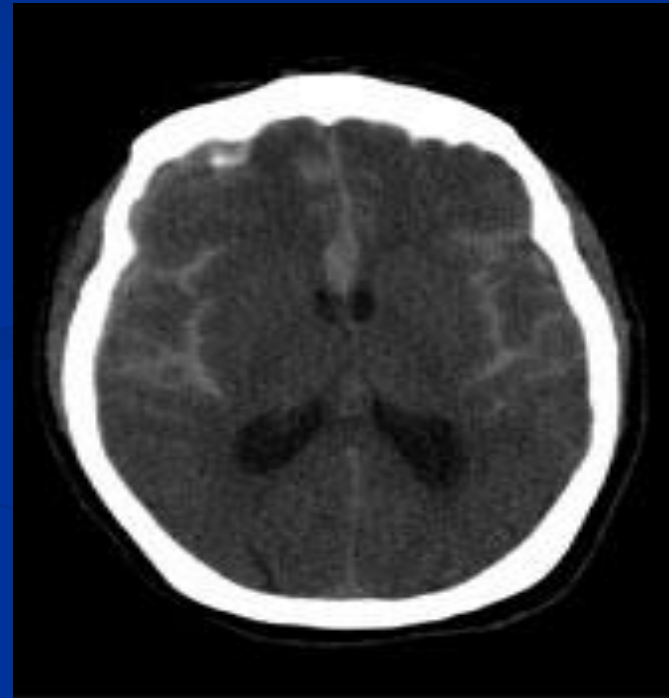
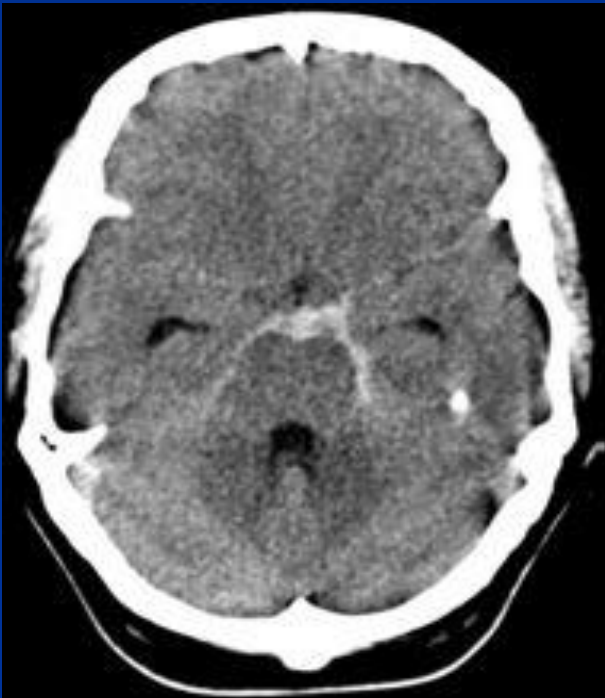
- Sudden, unusually severe or “thunderclap” headache
- Loss of consciousness (transient or persistent if severe )
- Pain in neck, back, eye
- Nausea, vomiting, photophobia

# Classic Signs of SAH

- Abnormal vital signs
  - Respiratory changes, hypertension, cardiac arrhythmias
- Meningism
- Focal neurologic signs may be present
  - III nerve palsy – IC/PCA aneurysm
  - Paraparesis – ACA aneurysm
  - Hemiparesis, aphasia – MCA aneurysm
- Ocular hemorrhages



# SAH



Subarachnoid hemorrhage



Intracerebral parenchymal hemorrhage





# Seizures, Pseudo-seizures and Status Epilepticus

# Evaluation of a First Seizure

## Exclude provoking factors

- ♦ History, physical
- ♦ Blood tests: CBC, electrolytes, glucose, calcium, magnesium, phosphate, hepatic and renal function
- ♦ Lumbar puncture  
(only if meningitis or encephalitis suspected and potential for brain herniation is excluded)
- ♦ Blood or urine screen for drugs
- ♦ ECG ; Electroencephalogram (EEG)
- ♦ CT or MR brain scan

# Definition of Status Epilepticus

- If the patient has a prolonged ( $>5$  min.) seizure or repetitive (3 or more/hr) seizures without recovery between episodes, they are considered to be in SE and the Rx protocol initiated.

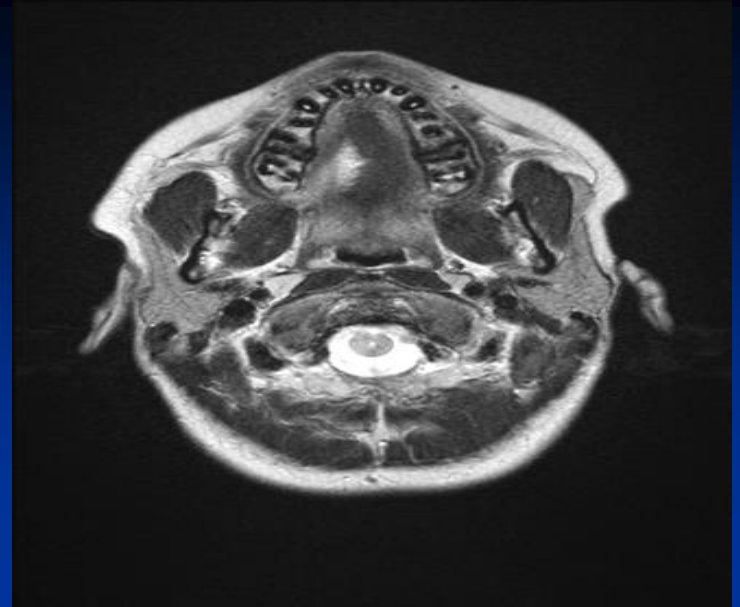
# Clinical distinction of dissociative non-epileptic attacks (“pseudoseizures”) from epileptic seizures

	Dissociative non-epileptic seizures (“pseudoseizures”)	Epileptic seizures
Induced by anger, panic, suggestion	Common	Rare
Onset	Often gradual	Usually sudden
Duration	Often prolonged, occasionally hours	1–3 minutes
Breathing and colour	Breathing continues, stays pink	Usually apnoeic and cyanosed
Retained consciousness	Common	Uncommon
Pelvic thrusting, back arching, erratic movements	Common	Rare
Fighting, held down, may injure others	Common	Rare
Eyes closed	Common	Less common
Resisting eye opening and eye contact	Common	Rare
Occur only in company	Common	Rare
Lateral tongue bite	Rare (minor)	Common
Self injury	Rare	Common (occasionally serious)
Incontinence	Rare (occasionally with experience)	Common
Post-ictal confusion	Rare	Common

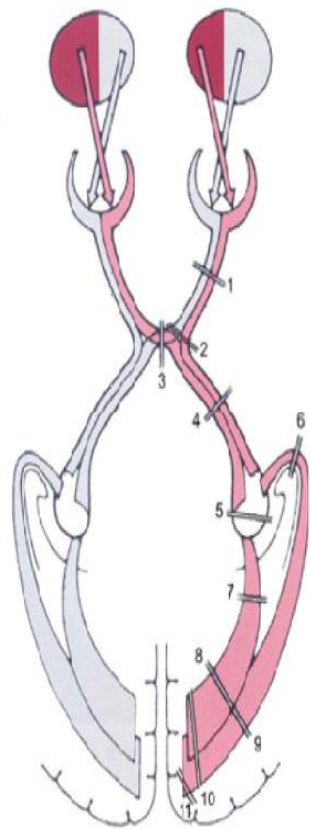
# Back arching in Pseudoseizures



- Lateral tongue biting is poorly sensitive but **highly specific (99%)** for a generalized seizure.

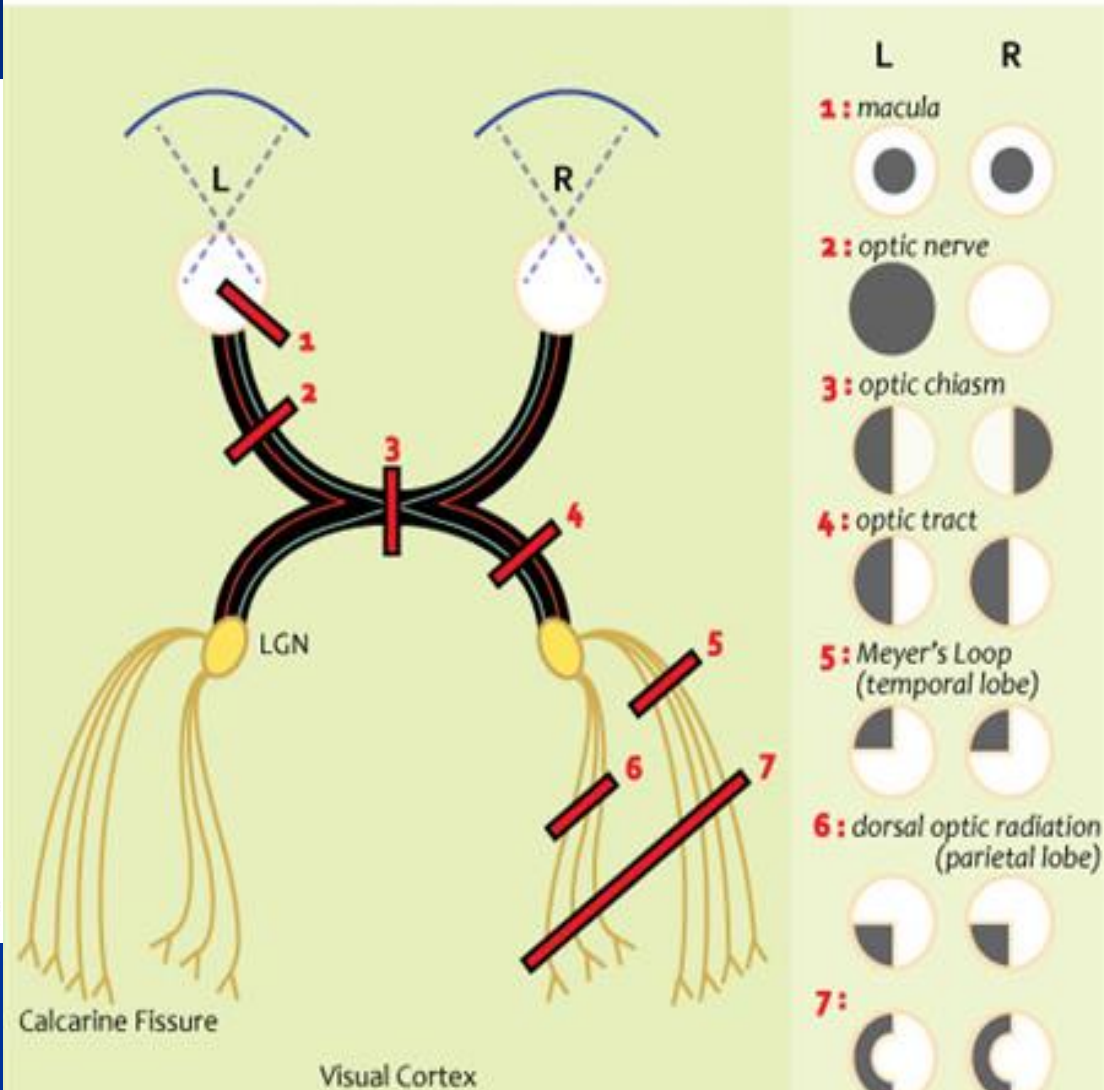


# Anatomy of Visual Pathways



Lesion location	Visual field defect		
	Left eye	Right eye	
1-Left optic: nerve			-Decreased vision, left eye
2-Posterior left optic: nerve			-Junctional scotoma
3-Chiasm			-Bitemporal hemianopia
4-Left optic: tract			-Right homonymous hemianopia
5-Left lateral geniculate nucleus			-Right homonymous sectoranopias
6-Left temporal lobe			-Right homonymous superior hemianopic defect
7-Left parietal lobe			-Right homonymous inferior hemianopic defect
8-Left occipital lobe (upper bank)			-Right homonymous inferior quadrantanopia
9-Left occipital lobe (lower bank)			-Right homonymous superior quadrantanopia
10-Left occipital lobe			-Right homonymous macular-sparing hemianopia
11-Tip of the left occipital lobe			-Right homonymous scotomas

## Visual Field Defects





# Case

- ❑ 30 year-old-lady-- 2/12 hx of vomiting and poor oral intake after GI surgery
- ❑ Last few days: dizzy, unsteady, leg pains, parasthesiae, diplopia, slow speech and concentration. Sleepy and easy irritability. Then **decreased vision** and unable to walk (wheel-chair).
- ❑ O/E:
  - Stable V/S, GCS 15/15. Irritable.
  - Restriction of eye movements + Nystagmus**
  - Gait ataxia**

- ❑ **Labs:** Na 130, K 2.9, AST 75
- ❑ Brain CT- Normal.
- ❑ **Given Rx** and MRI Brain requested.
- ❑ Next day--- improvement.
- ❑ What was the treatment?
  - A. steroids
  - B. antibiotics + antivirals
  - C. IVIG
  - D. something else

# What was the treatment?

## IV Thiamine (Vit. B1)

### WERNICKE ENCEPHALOPATHY

Acute B1 (thiamine) deficiency

@Neudrawlogy



#### Diagnosis

**CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS:**  
**CAINE CRITERIA**  
2 out of 4

#### Why?

Any risk factor for nutritional deficiency!



Changes in  
mental status or  
memory  
impairment



Oculomotor  
dysfunctions ( e.g.  
ophthalmoplegia  
and nystagmus)



Cerebellar dysfunction  
(e.g. gait ataxia -  
usually not present in  
upper limb)



Nutritional  
deficiency

- Chronic alcoholism
- Malignancy
- Hyperemesis of pregnancy
- Bariatric surgery
- Anorexia nervosa

#### Treatment

**Intravenous thiamin  
infusion**

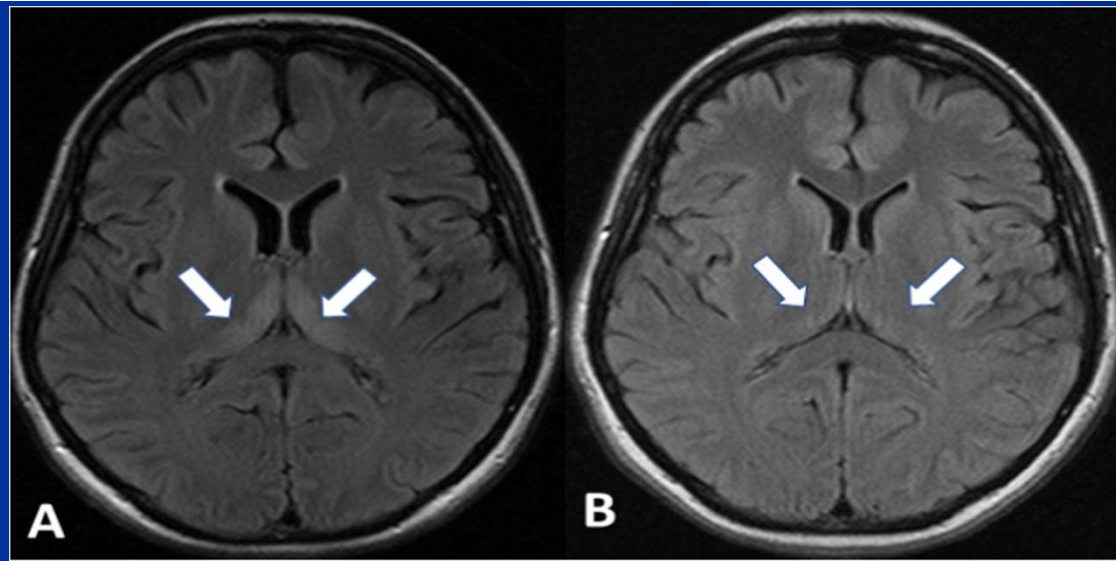
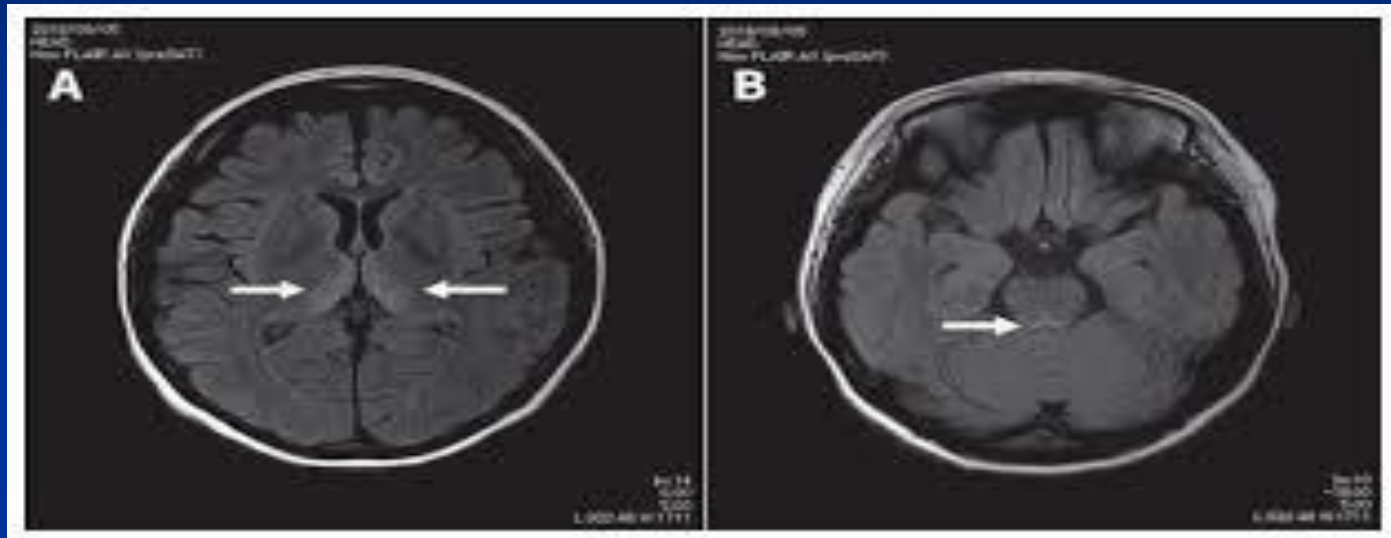
- Administration of glucose without thiamine can worsen Wernicke Encephalopathy
- A prompt treatment can improve symptoms and prevent the development of Korsakoff syndrome (chronic B1 deficiency)

**Immediate  
treatment, as soon  
as you consider the  
diagnosis!**

**This classic triad is present in only 10% -17%  
of the cases (more commonly in chronic  
alcoholism)**



Delay in the diagnosis and treatment of Wernicke's Encephalopathy may lead to death or dementia in survivors (Korsakoff's psychosis)



**Good Luck**