Medical Image of the Week: Massive Cerebral Infarction

Figure 1. Representative images of head CT scan.

Figure 2. Representative images of head MRI.

A 77 year old man with a history of chronic heart failure was admitted to the hospital complaining of left sided hemiparesis for about an hour. He was oriented but had slurred speech and was unable to move his left arm or leg. His pulse was irregular and ECG showed atrial fibrillation. A CT scan of the head (Figure 1) was interpreted as relatively unremarkable. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the head (Figure 2) showed massive right brain infarction. These studies illustrate the higher sensitivity of MRI in comparison to CT in the detection of stroke, especially early after the onset on symptoms (1).

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Reference

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