Bilateral Reversible Diffusion Weighted MRI Abnormalities in Transient Global Amnesia

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Fig. 1: Diffusion hyperintensities involving right hippocampal head (Fig. 1a and 1b) and left hippocampal tail (Fig. 1c and 1d)

Fig. 2: Complete resolution of abnormalities after the onset revealed restricted diffusion in the right hippocampal body and left hippocampal tail (Figure 1) not seen on conventional T2 weighted images. A repeat imaging done three weeks later showed complete resolution of these abnormalities (Figure 2).

A 59 year old Professor became acutely confused after inaugurating a workshop he had organized. In the hospital he was found to have anterograde amnesia and a temporarily limited retrograde amnesia for events that happened at the workshop. He recovered to normalcy in 12 hours. MR imaging done 24 hours

Transient global amnesia (TGA) is characterized by anterograde memory disturbance of sudden onset that lasts for 1 to 24 hours. Orientation in space and time is impaired while consciousness remains undisturbed. Transient diffusion weighted imaging abnormalities involving the hippocampus as well as stressful situations precipitating Transient Global Amnesia have been described earlier.1,2

References

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