



Cardiac myxoma with MRI lesions mimicking MS

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Case report

We present a female patient in whom an initial diagnosis of multiple sclerosis (MS) was suggested on the basis of MRI findings. This patient had a short-lasting loss of consciousness followed by left leg weakness and paresthesias which lasted for one week and resolved spontaneously. An MRI at an out-patient clinic revealed multiple hyperintense lesions of periventricular, subcortical and juxtacortical localization on T2 and FLAIR sequences (Figs. 1a and b), which were initially interpreted as suggestive of MS. This diagnosis was, however, refuted based on clinical criteria and normal CSF analysis. Transthoracic echocardiography revealed a large (3 × 2.4 cm) left atrial myxoma (Fig. 2). After surgical removal the patient had no further neurolog-



FIG. 2. — Transthoracic ECHO showing large tumor in the left atrium.

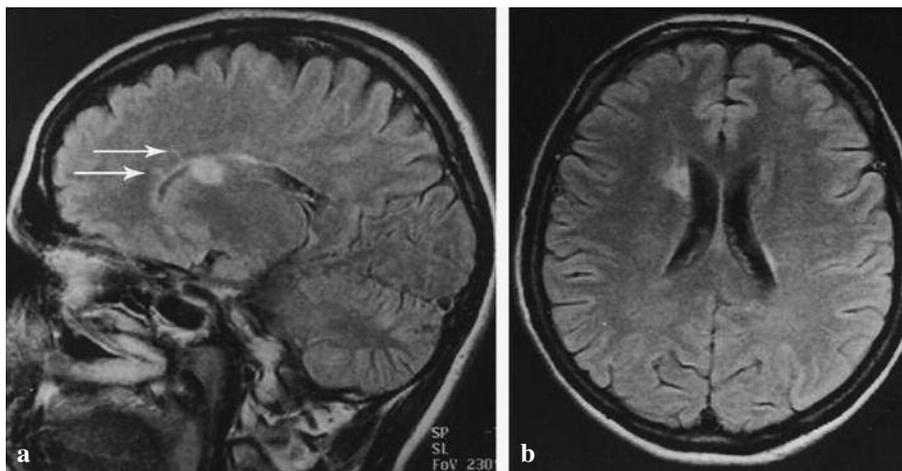


FIG. 1. — Brain MRI: a) Sagittal FLAIR image showing one large demyelinating lesion, as well as smaller lesions localized in the corpus callosum (arrows); b) transversal FLAIR image showing a large periventricular lesion.

ical events. This case reminds us that the embolic cerebral lesions associated with a cardiac myxoma may be taken as demyelinating lesions on MRI (Polzer & Benesch 1998), but should not fool the clinician.

REFERENCES

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