



Giant aneurysm with dolichoectasia involving the carotid artery system

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Case

An 86-year-old woman presented with sudden onset of severe headache, nausea and vomiting. At the emergency department she lost consciousness for several minutes. Brain CT showed a diffuse subarachnoid haemorrhage in the basal cistern and a suprasellar mass suggestive of a giant aneurysm (Fig. 1A, arrow). CT angiography revealed multiple dolichoectasia in the carotid artery system (Fig. 1B and C, arrows).

Dolichoectasia is an angiopathy of the medium-sized brain arteries, characterized by dilatation, elongation and tortuosity. The vertebrobasilar circulation is more frequently involved than the carotid

circulation (1). It may cause ischemia, subarachnoid haemorrhage or local compression of cranial nerves and even hydrocephalus (2).

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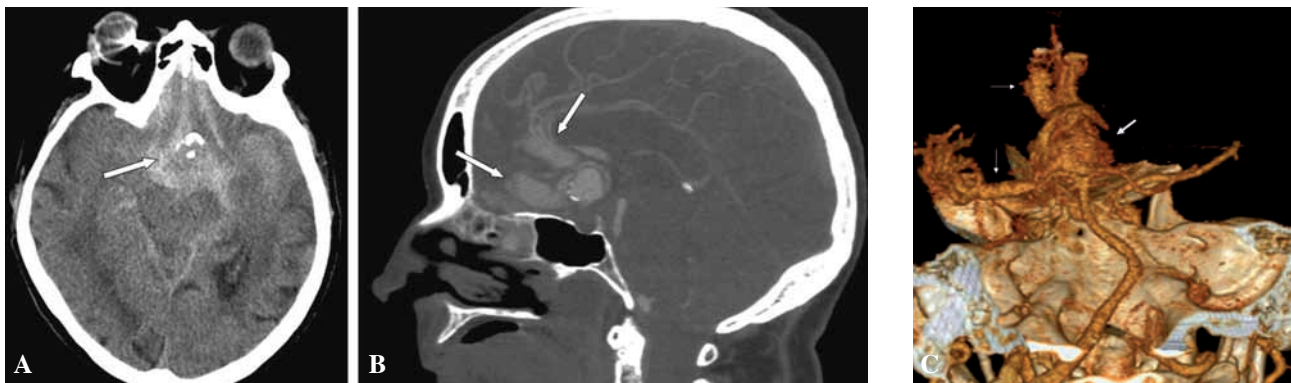


FIG. 1. — A. Brain CT demonstrating diffuse subarachnoidal haemorrhage, and a suprasellar mass (arrow), suggestive of a giant aneurysm; B. CT angiography revealing multiple dolichoectasia (arrows) in the left carotid artery system; C. Reconstruction of CT angiography showing dilatation of the left middle cerebral artery and anterior cerebral artery (arrows) and a giant aneurysm in the anterior communicating artery (thick arrow).