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An unusual cause of ischemic stroke – Cerebral air embolism

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Abstract

Air embolism is a preventable, often undiagnosed but potentially treatable cause of ischemic stroke with a high morbidity and mortality. It is usually iatrogenic occurring especially in patients in ICU setting. We describe the case and neuroimaging of a patient with ischaemic stroke due to air embolism during manipulation of central venous line. We also review the literature with respect to aetiology, incidence pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment options for venous and air embolism. Cerebral air embolism should be considered in patients with sudden neurological deterioration after central venous or arterial manipulations or certain neurological procedures. Prevention, as well as early diagnosis and management, may reduce morbidity and mortality.

Keywords: Central venous catheter; cerebral air embolism; hyperbaric oxygen therapy; ischemic stroke.

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Figures

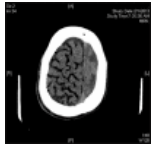


Figure 1 NCCT head demonstrating massive air...

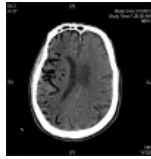


Figure 2 NCCT head demonstrating massive air...

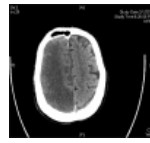


Figure 3 Repeat NCCT head after 12...



Figure 4 NCCT head on day 4...

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