Journal of Clinical Neuroscience (2005) 12(5), 570 0967-5868/\$ - see front matter © 2005 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved. doi:10.1016/j.jocn.2005.03.007

Images in neuroscience

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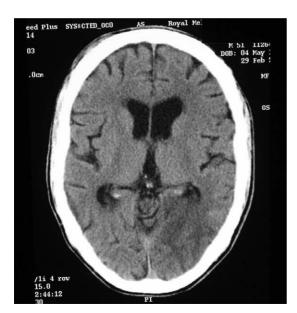


Fig. 1 CT Brain (unenhanced).

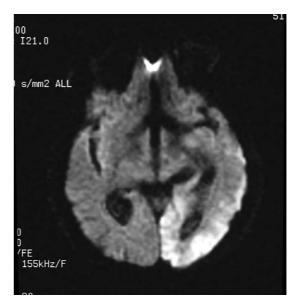


Fig. 3 MRI Brain, Diffusion Weighted Imaging sequence.



Fig. 2 MRI Brain, Axial FLAIR sequence.

CLINICAL BACKGROUND

A fifty-two year old man presented with a three day history of confusion and clumsiness. He had two similar presentations 3 years and 6 months ago. Other past history included diet-controlled type 2 diabetes mellitus, hypercholesterolaemia, hypertension and 'industrial deafness'.

On examination he was a short man, alert but disoriented to person, place and time. His speech was incomprehensible and monosyllabic, with inability to follow single stage commands. There was bilateral optic atrophy. All 4 limbs were ataxic, but there were no other long tract signs.

The admission was complicated by generalized tonic clonic seizures. He was eventually placed in supportive care. His brain CT (fig. 1) and MRI (figs. 2 and 3) are provided.

WHAT IS THE MOST LIKELY DIAGNOSIS:

- (a) Antiphospholipid syndrome
- (b) Ischaemic stroke
- (c) Canavan disease
- (d) MELAS
- (e) Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy

Answer at back of issue.