

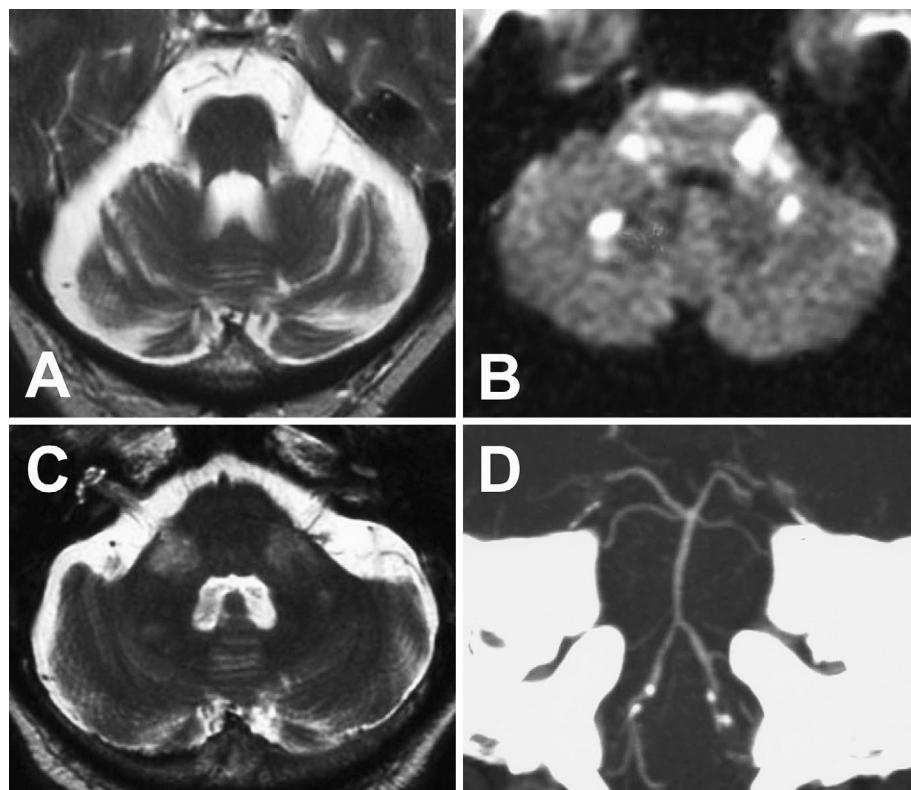
Pontocerebellar Atrophy Resembling Spinocerebellar Ataxia Following a Brain Infarction

Masayuki Ueda and Yasuo Katayama

Key words: brain infarction, multiple system atrophy, magnetic resonance imaging

(Intern Med 52: 933-934, 2013)

(DOI: 10.2169/internalmedicine.52.9459)



Picture.

A 62-year-old man complained of gait disturbance associated with mild ataxia. Brain T₂-weighted MR imaging revealed pontocerebellar atrophy with middle cerebellar peduncle (MCP) atrophy, thus suggesting the presence of a degenerative disorder (Picture A). However, the patient had a history of ischemic stroke at 56 years of age. His initial symptom of bilateral deafness improved thereafter, as has been described elsewhere (1). Diffusion-weighted imaging obtained on admission revealed bilateral MCP and cerebellar acute infarctions (Picture B); however, no pontocerebellar at-

rophy was observed on T₂-weighted imaging (Picture C). CT angiography disclosed narrow bilateral anterior inferior cerebellar arteries (AICAs) and calcified bilateral vertebral arteries (Picture D).

MCP infarctions are caused by AICA territory ischemia, although the lesions are usually unilateral. Pontocerebellar atrophy with bilateral MCP atrophy is a characteristic MR finding of multiple system atrophy, a sporadic degenerative spinocerebellar ataxia (2). Bilateral MCP infarctions are rare; however, poststroke tissue loss can result in pontocere-

bellar atrophy, which may resemble degenerative spinocerebellar ataxia.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

References

1. Sunami E, Nagayama H, Yamazaki M, Katsumata T, Katayama Y. A case of infarction in brainstem and cerebellum as a initial symptom with bilateral hearing loss. *No To Shinkei* **58**: 791-795, 2006 (in Japanese).
2. Bürk K, Bühring U, Schulz JB, Zühlke C, Hellenbroich Y, Dichgans J. Clinical and magnetic resonance imaging characteristics of sporadic cerebellar ataxia. *Arch Neurol* **62**: 981-985, 2005.

© 2013 The Japanese Society of Internal Medicine
<http://www.naika.or.jp/imonline/index.html>