

Image of the month: Diffuse intracranial calcinosis Fahr's Syndrome

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A 44-year-old woman presented with expressive dysphasia on a background of epilepsy. Her computed tomography (CT) head scan demonstrated extensive calcification. Having excluded metabolic causes, the diagnosis was Fahr's syndrome. This is a rare, autosomal dominant disorder characterised by extensive calcification in the basal ganglia and cerebral cortex. Symptoms may include seizures, decline in motor function and movement disorders. ■

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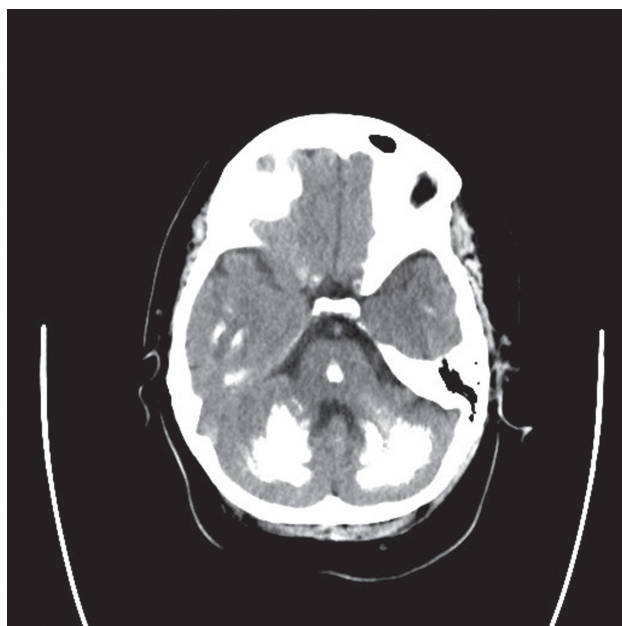


Fig 1. Non-contrast CT head scan, demonstrating florid multifocal calcification including the pons and cerebellar hemispheres bilaterally.

The differential diagnoses might include multiple calcified cavernous angiomas, infections such as neurocysticercosis or TB, previous brain injury, a variety of inherited or acquired metabolic conditions, or previous radiation or chemotherapy. CT = computed tomography; TB = tuberculosis.



Fig 2. Non-contrast CT head scan demonstrating florid multifocal calcification of the basal ganglia and at the grey-white matter interface of both cerebral hemispheres. CT = computed tomography.

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