

Neuroimaging Case-Based Review

Movement Disorder Edition

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UTSW Medical Center and Parkland Hospital & Health System



Brain Summit 2025
October 25 – Dallas, Texas

UT Southwestern
O'Donnell Brain Institute

UT Southwestern
Medical Center

Aims and Outline

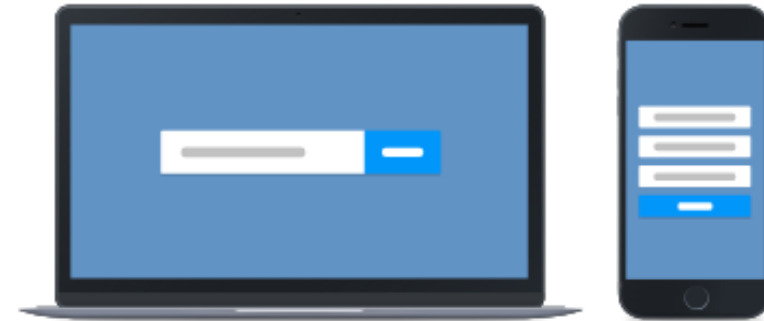
Goals:

- review select neurological case scenarios in which a combination of clinical manifestations and imaging findings which may help in a specific diagnosis. **Emphasis on movement disorders** (mostly).

Format:

- Cased-based discussion
- Clinical vignettes, selected images
- Interactive polling platform – engagement and self assessment

How to Join



- 1 Go to **PollEv.com**
- 2 Enter **MARCOPINHO535**
- 3 Respond to activity

Disclosures

- **No financial relationships to disclose**
- **Polling tool just for engagement, don't take it too seriously**

What is your occupation ?



☐ Trainee ☐ Physician ☐ Physician Assistant ☐ Nurse ☐ Physical Therapist ☐ Medical Student ☐ Other



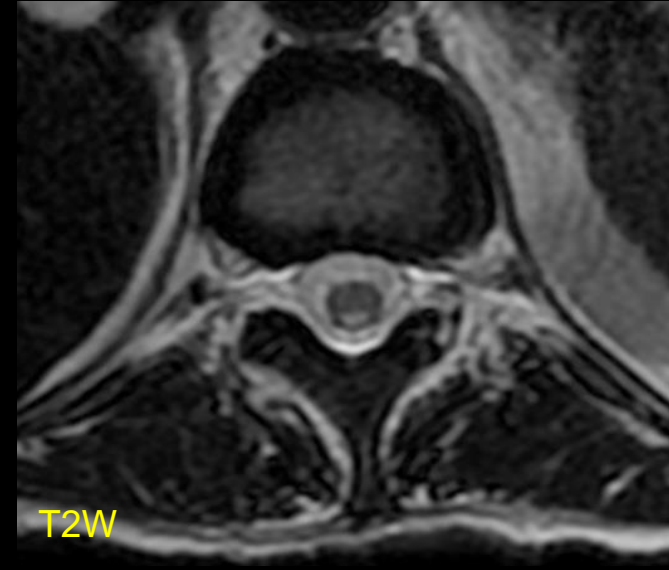
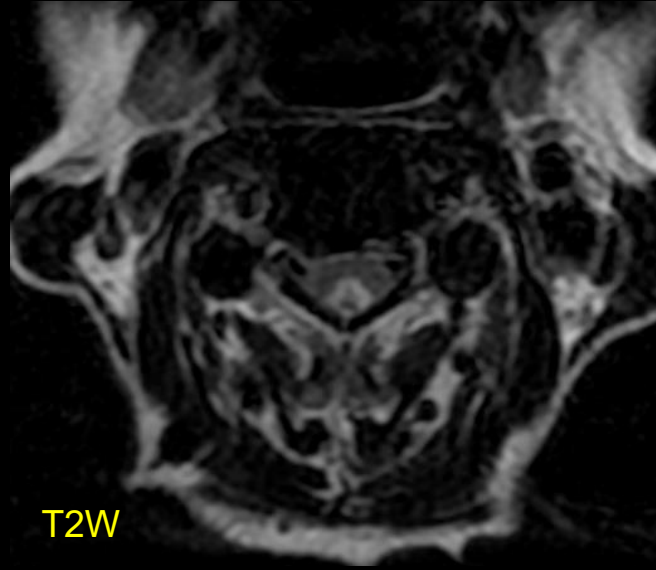
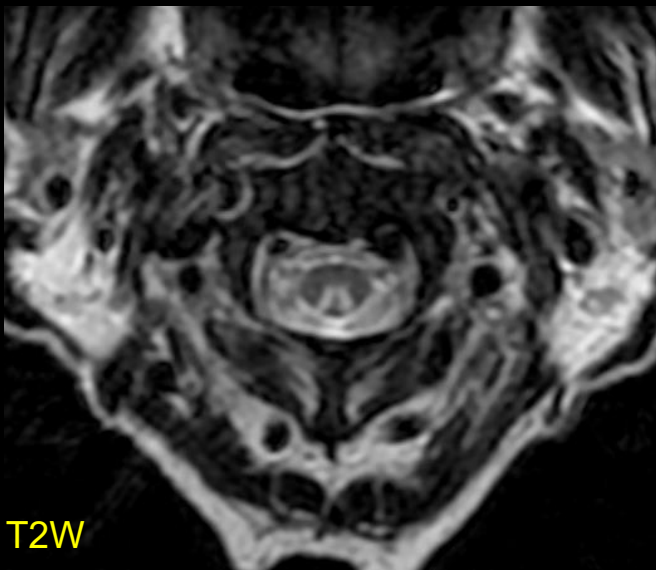
Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at pollev.com/app

Training!

Warm up Case !!

40 yo M.
Progressive
paresthesia of the
hands and feet,
ataxia.

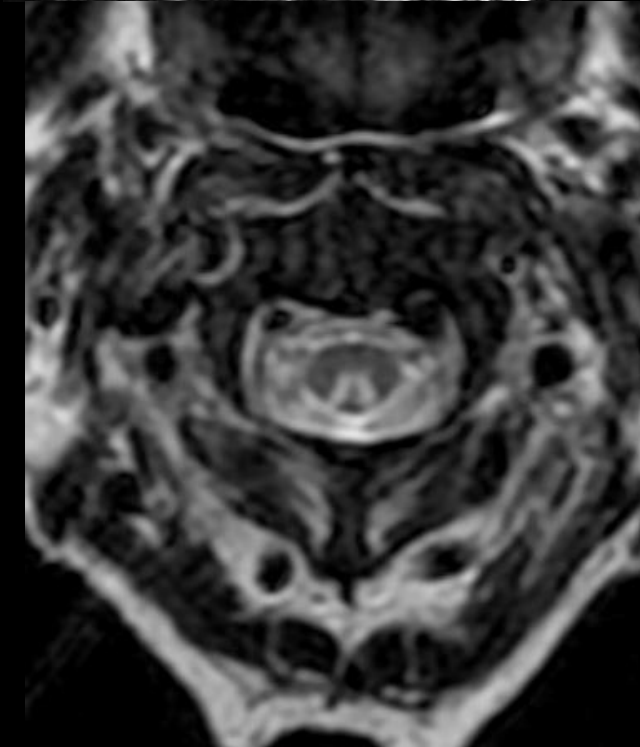
Hx of **longstanding
inflammatory
bowel disease** and
prior surgeries.





40 yo M. Progressive paresthesias of the hands and feet, **ataxia**.

Hx of **longstanding inflammatory bowel disease** and **prior surgeries**.



Case #2 - What is the correct statement about this condition?

0

This is most commonly an idiopathic condition with spontaneous resolution

0%

CSF in this patient will likely be abnormal

0%

This disease is potentially treatable and intervention can prevent progression

0%

Evaluation of the brain is recommended to search for additional periventricular lesions

0%

DWI would be helpful to confirm the most likely diagnosis

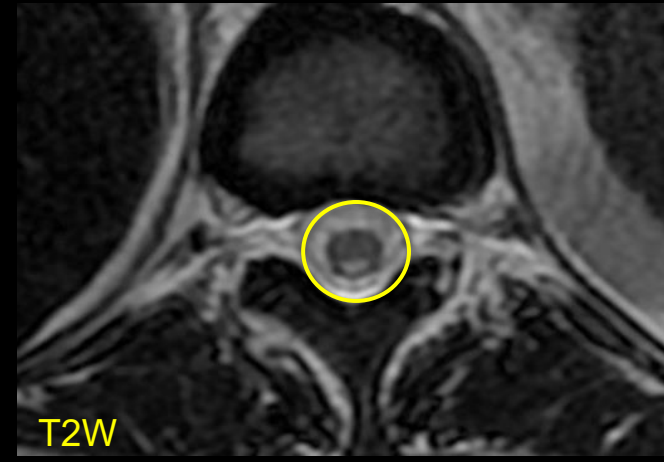
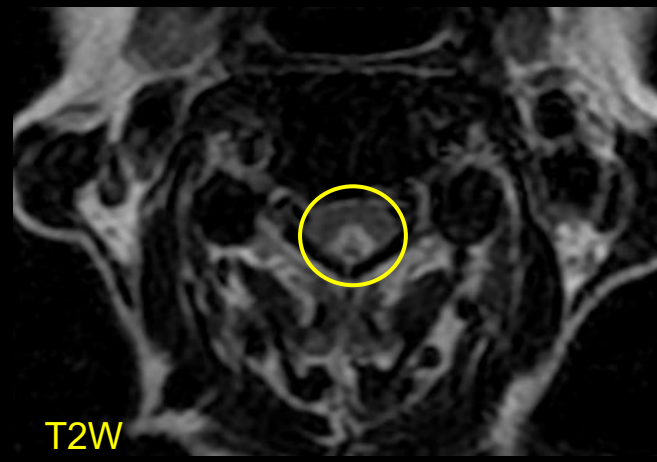
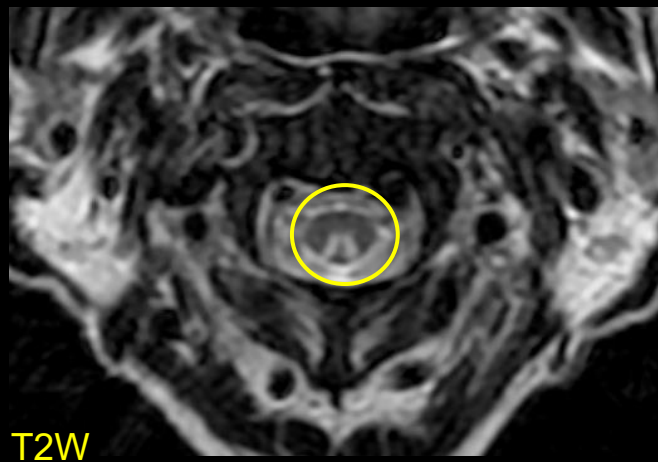
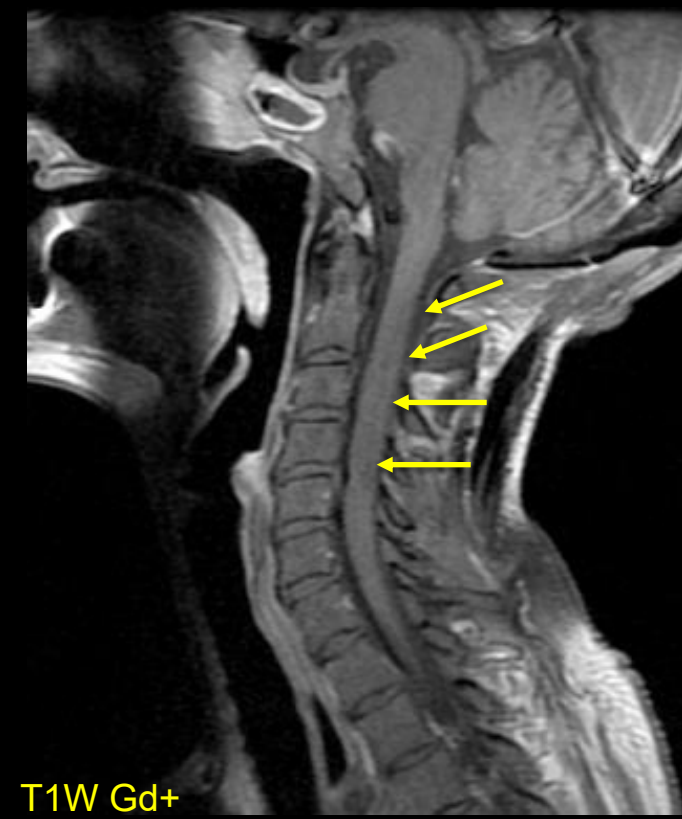
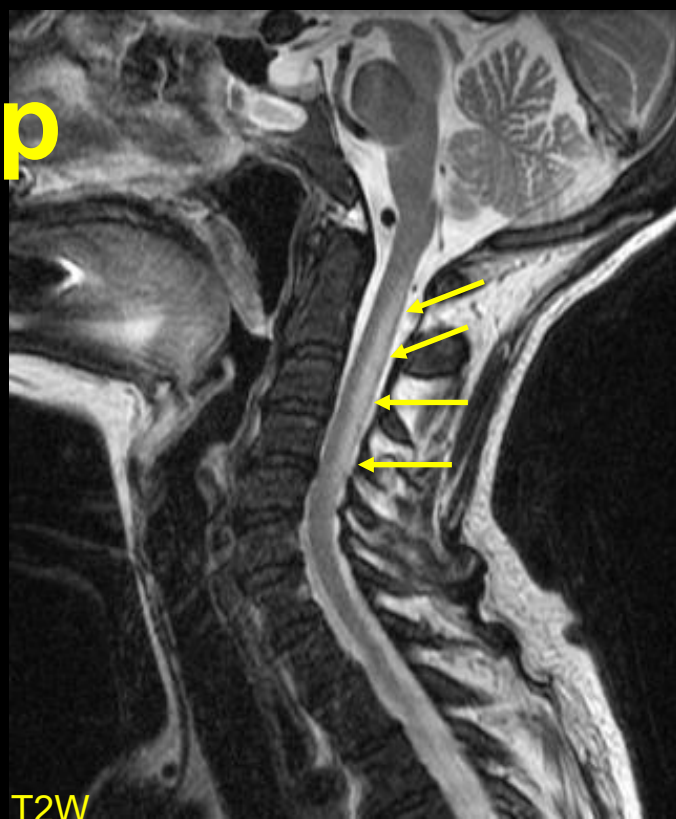
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Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at pollev.com/app

Warm Up

40 yo M.
Progressive
paresthesias of
the hands and
feet, **ataxia**.

Hx of **longstanding
inflammatory
bowel disease** and
prior surgeries.

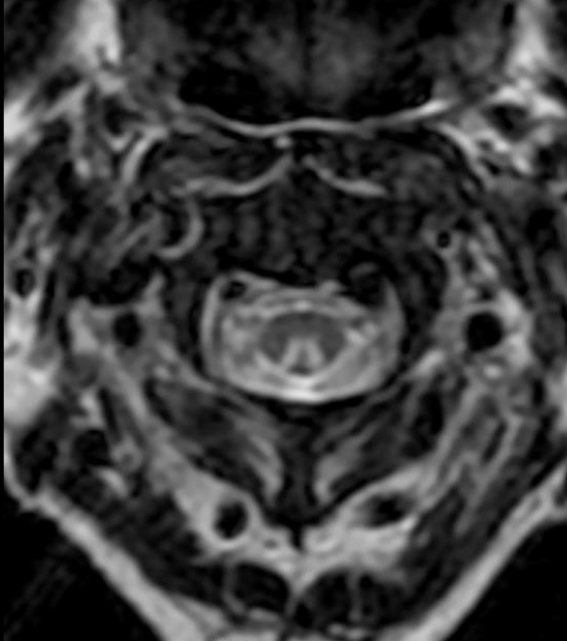


Subacute Combined Degeneration – B12 Deficiency



40 yo M. Progressive paresthesias of the hands and feet, **ataxia**.

Hx of **longstanding inflammatory bowel disease** and **prior surgeries**.



What is the correct statement about this condition?

0

This is most commonly an idiopathic condition with spontaneous resolution (A)

CSF in this patient will likely be abnormal (B)



This disease is potentially treatable and intervention can prevent progression (C)

Evaluation of the brain is recommended to search for additional periventricular le... (D)

DWI would be helpful to confirm the most likely diagnosis (E)

Case #1 – Sudden Abnormal Arm Movements

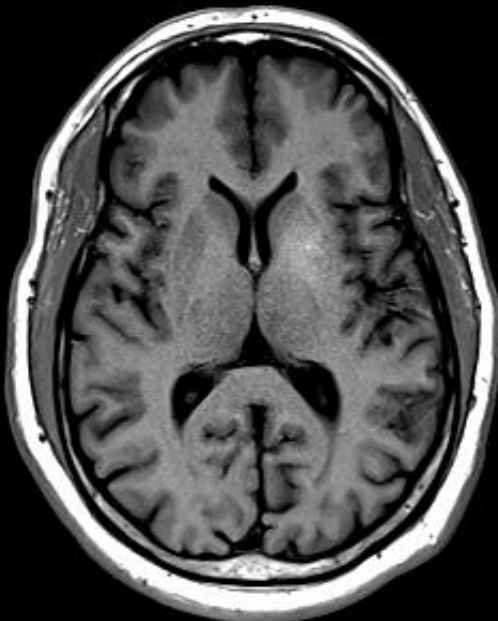
- 56 yo right male, presents to ED with 2 weeks of abnormal movements on RUE.
- Patient in usual state of health until woke up with burning pain on the RUE and abnormal movements.
- Initial mild weakness, now resolved, followed by uncontrollable movements of shoulder, elbow wrist and fingers. Outside MRI saw “spot on the brain”. Referred for stroke eval
- **Physical:** Irregular, fluid involuntary movements of RUE: trap elevation/ twitching, occasionally with flexion R elbow and writhing of wrists and fingers.
- **PMHx:** hypertension, T2DM, hyperlipidemia
- **Labs:** glucose (random): 246 mg/dL, Hgb A1c 10.2%

Case #1

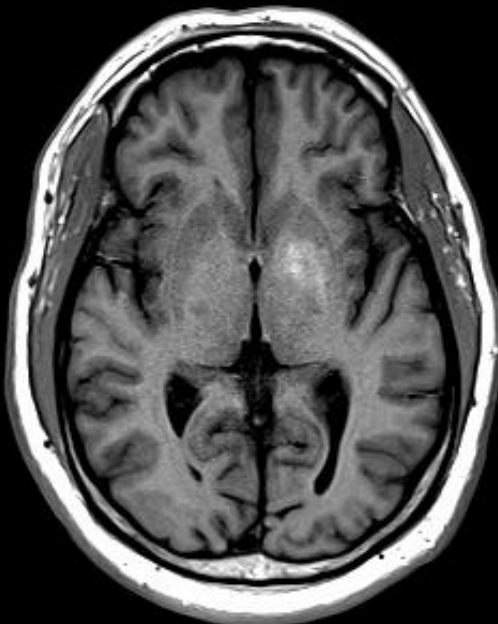
NCCT



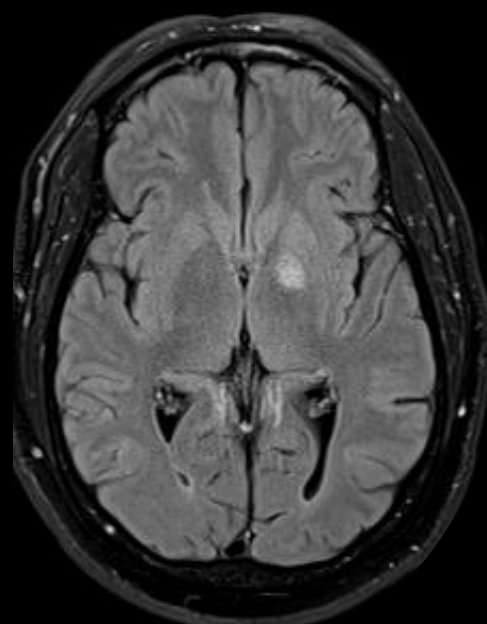
Ax T1W



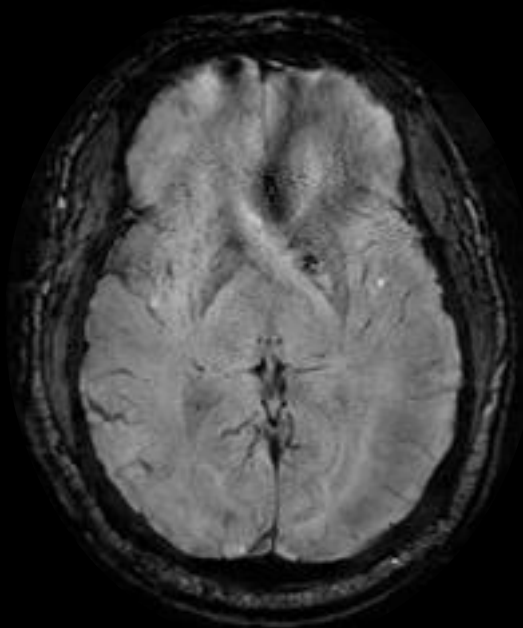
Ax T1W



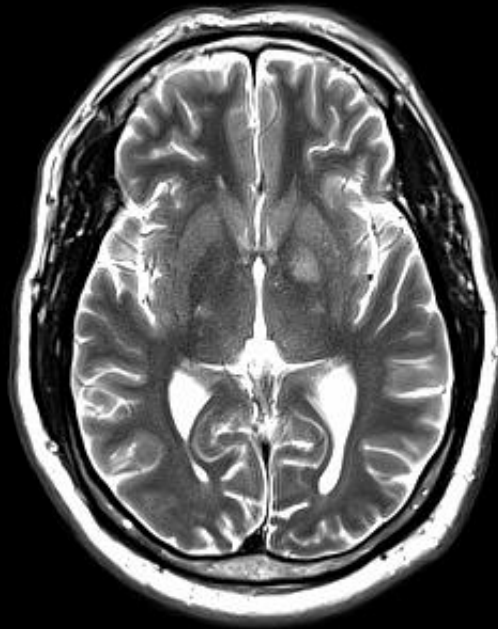
Ax T2-FLAIR



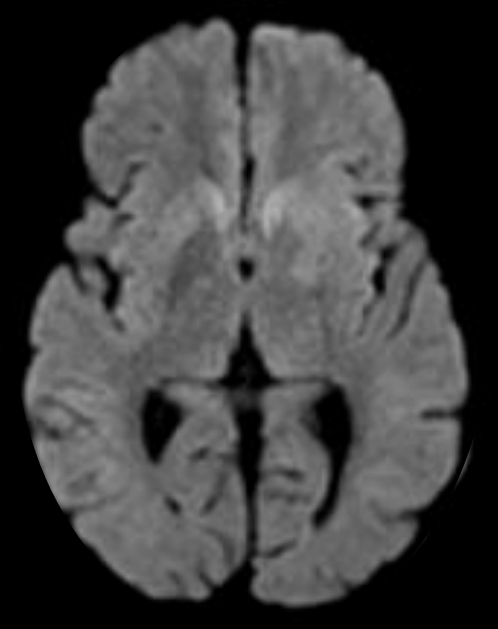
T2*W GRE



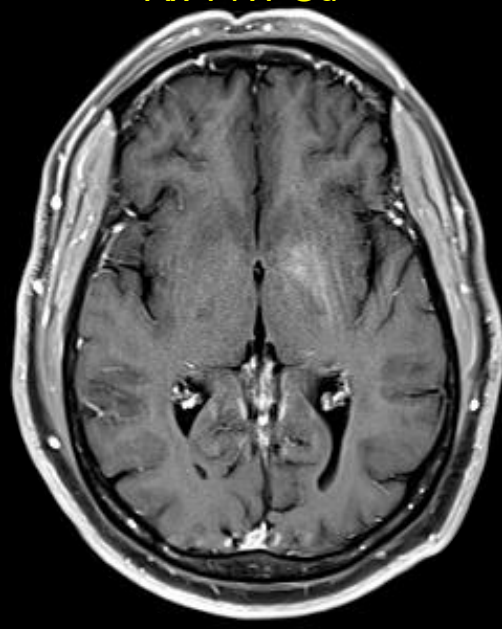
T2W TSE

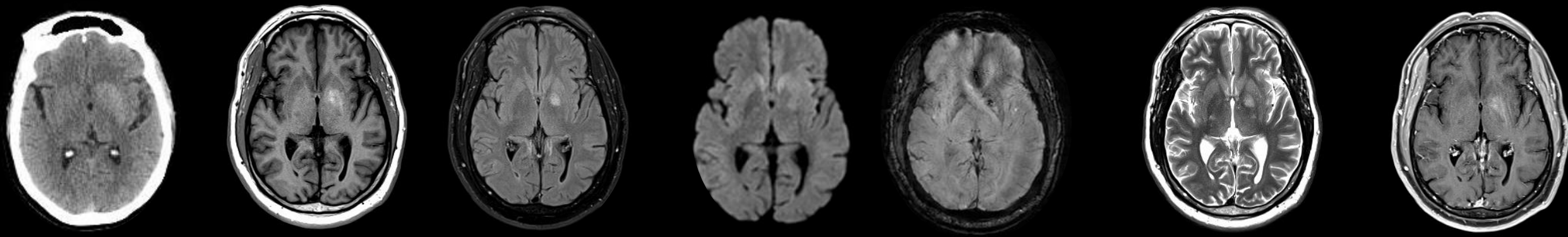


DWI



Ax T1W Gd+





Case #1

Sudden Abnormal Arm Movements

Case #1 - What is the most likely etiology for this type of injury ?

0

Metabolic

0%

Vascular

0%

Neoplastic

0%

Immune-mediated

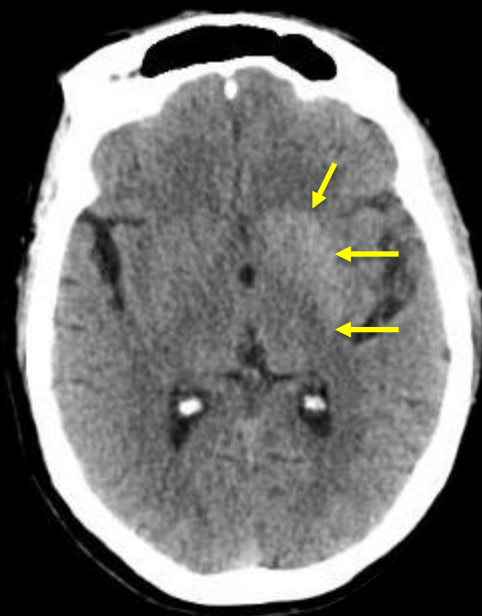
0%

Infectious

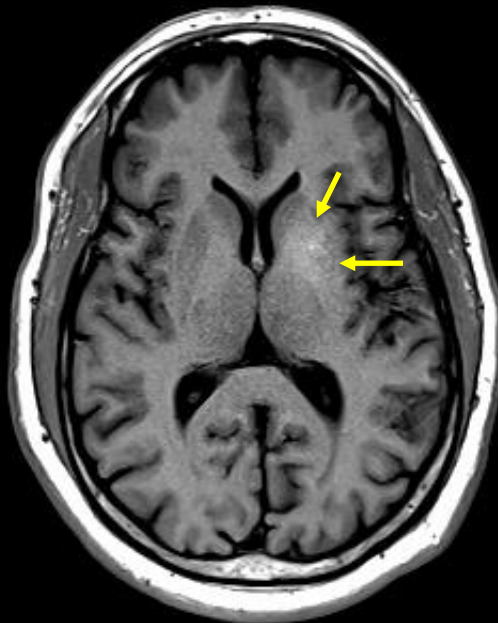
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Case #1

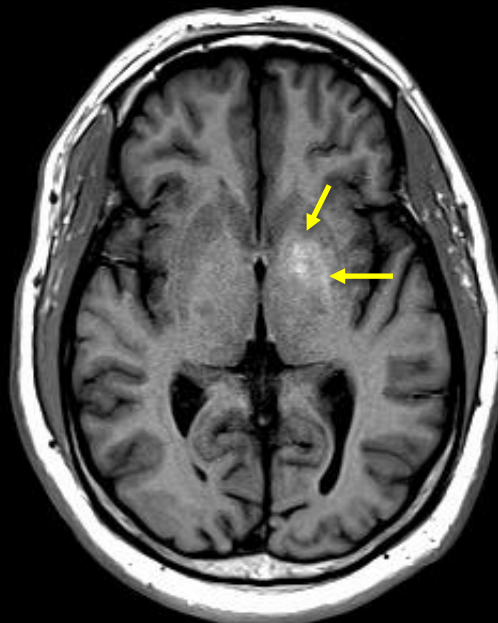
NCCT



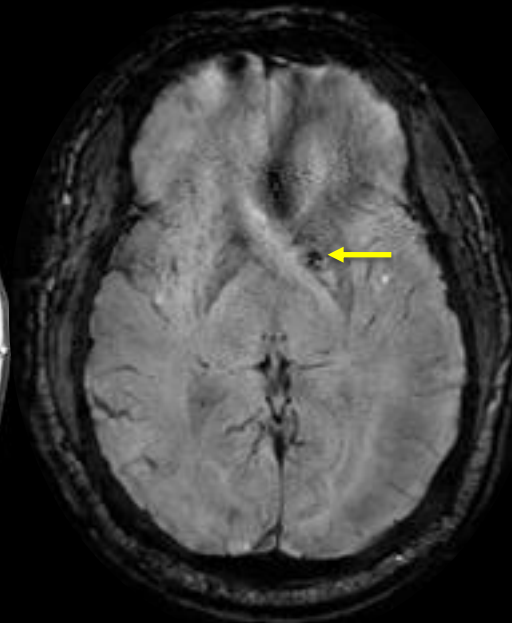
Ax T1W



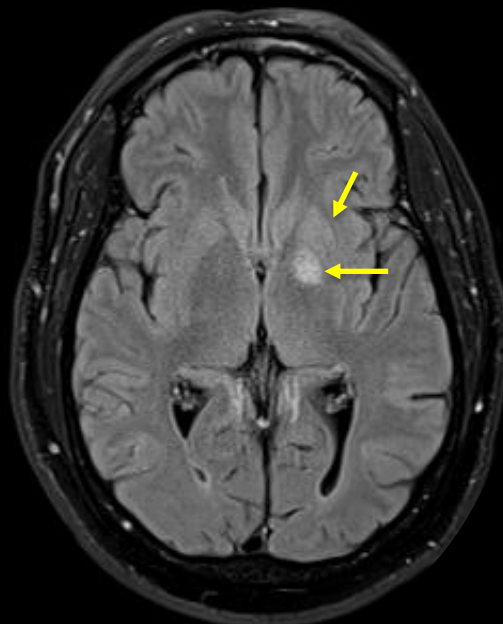
Ax T1W



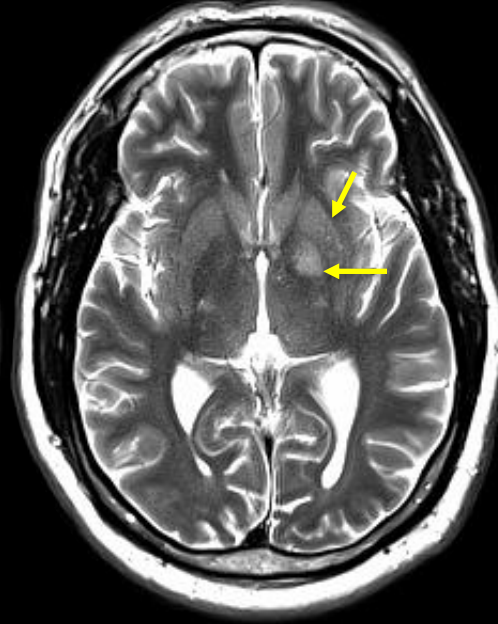
T2*W GRE



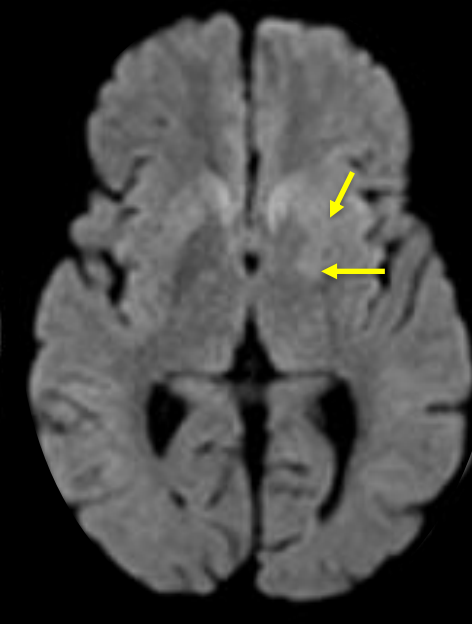
Ax T2-FLAIR



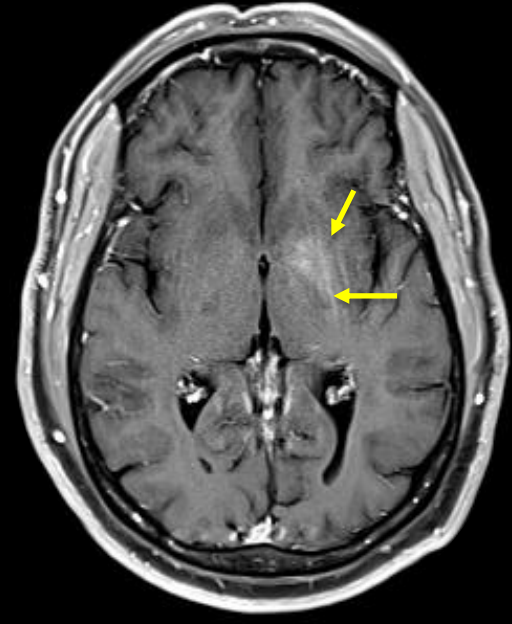
T2W TSE



DWI

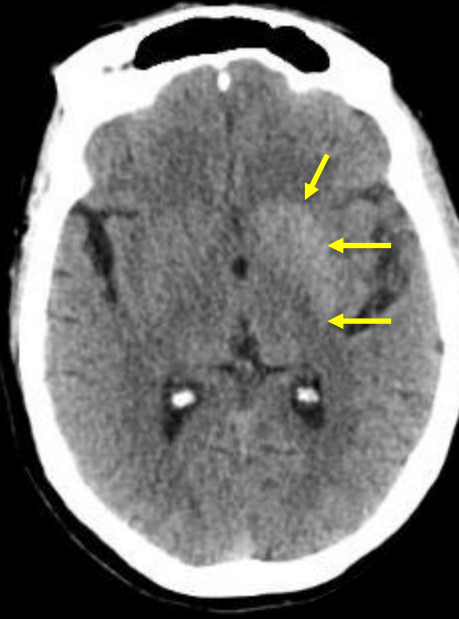


Ax T1W Gd+

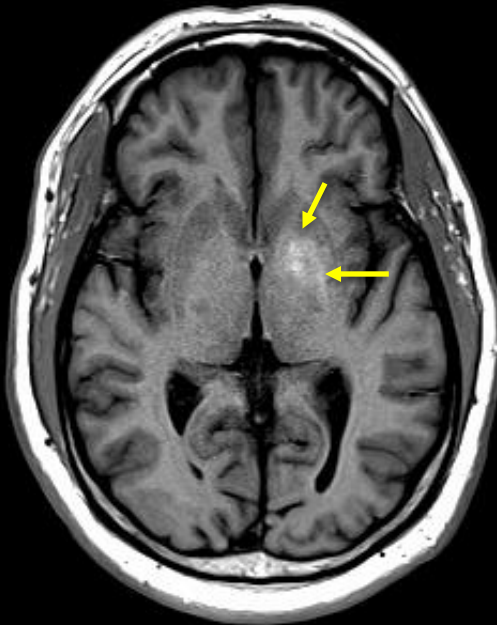


Case #1

NCCT



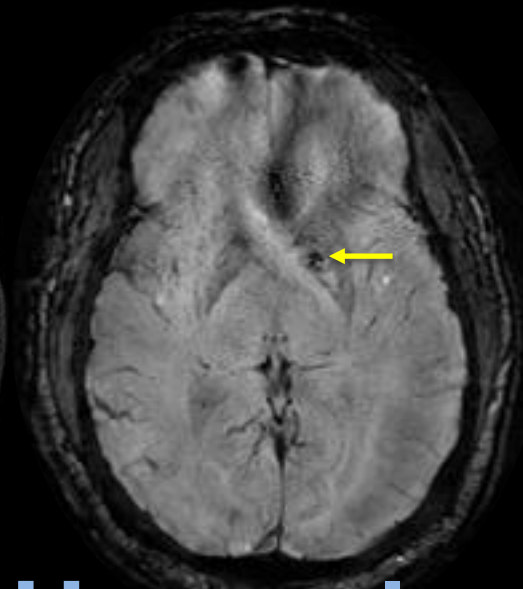
Ax T1W



Ax T2-FLAIR



T2*W GRE



Case #1 Diagnostic Checklist

- 56 yo M, sudden onset unilateral arm involuntary movements
- previously asymptomatic
- DW2, Hgb A1c 10.2%
- Imaging
 - unilateral BG signal abnormality
 - Elevated attenuation on CT
 - T1 shortening on MRI

Non-Ketotic Hyperglycemic Hemichorea

Nonketotic Hyperglycemic Hemichorea

- aka Diabetic Striatopathy or Chorea, Hyperglycemia Basal Ganglia Syndrome (C-H-BG)
- Rare, under recognized neurological complication of nonketotic hyperglycemia
- # non-ketotic hyperglycemic seizures and non-ketotic hyperglycemic coma

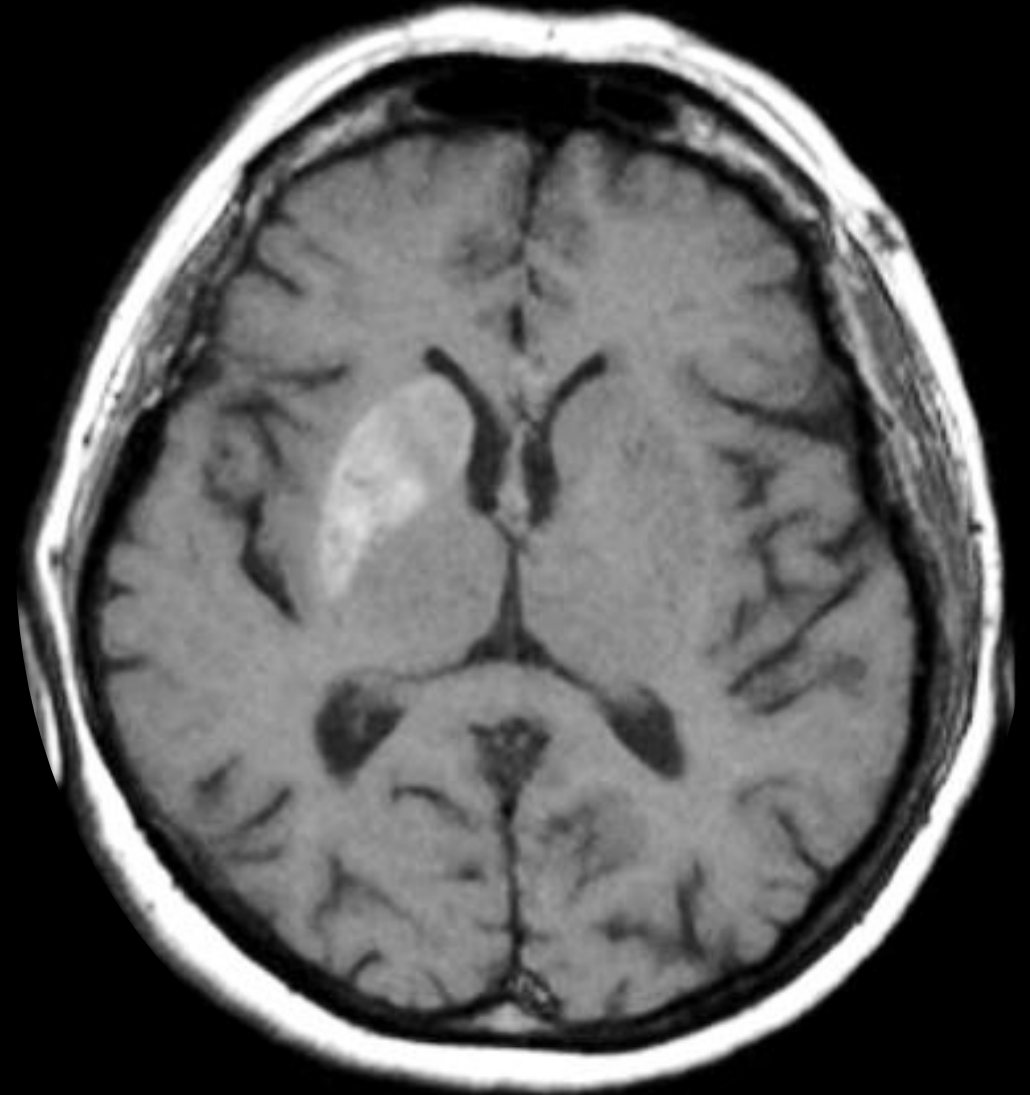
Typical Clinical Presentation:

- Elderly patients with poorly controlled DM2
- Chorea and ballismus (usually unilateral) with sudden onset
- Often resolves completely or partially after correction of hyperglycemia
- Some patients may require chronic management of their movement disorder (haloperidol)
- Contentious theories for pathophysiology
 - GABA depletion
 - Oxidative stress
 - Hyperviscosity
 - Neurovascular unit dysfunction (cerebral autoregulation and microglial activation)

Nonketotic Hyperglycemic Chorea

Imaging Presentation

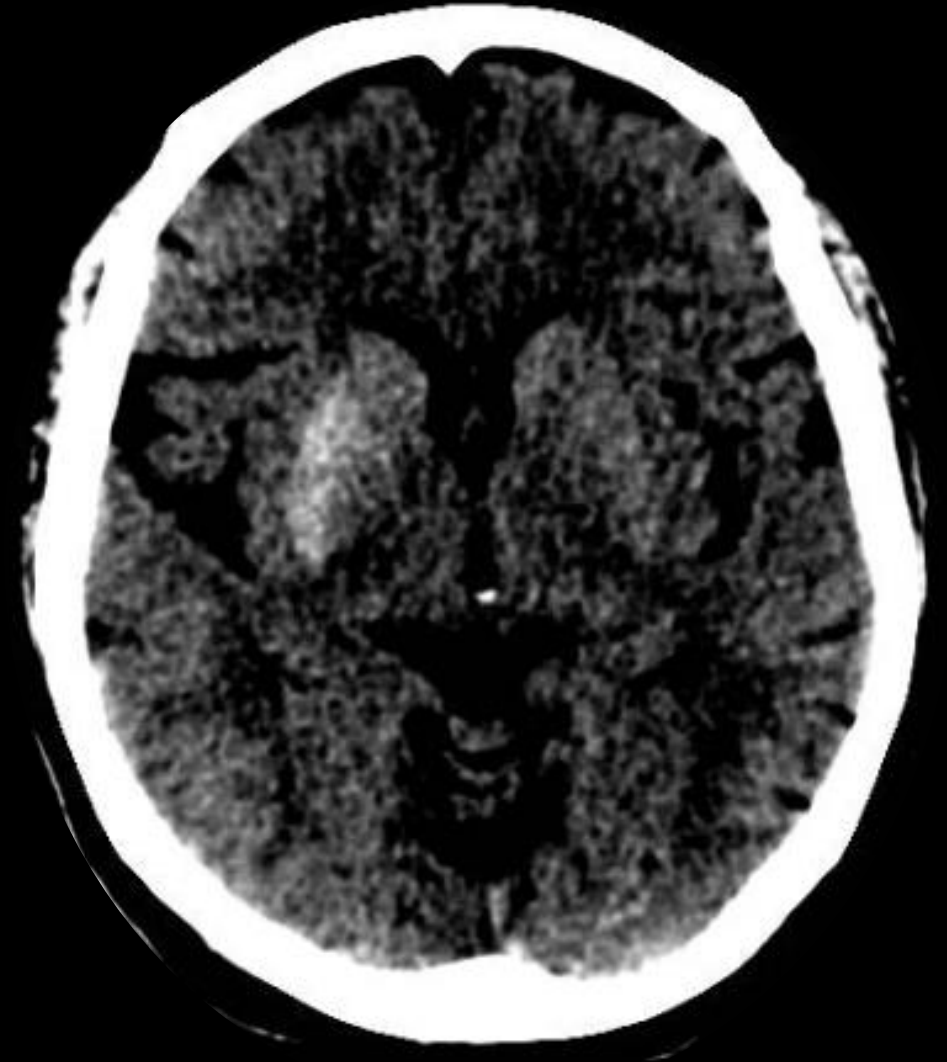
- MRI modality of choice
 - hallmark is BG T1 shortening (hyperintensity)
 - predominantly on putamen, but also caudate and GP
 - contralateral to abnormal movements
- T2W/FLAIR - variable hyperintensity
- T2*/GRE - hypointensity
- DWI - variable



Nonketotic Hyperglycemic Chorea

Imaging Presentation

- MRI modality of choice
 - hallmark is BG T1 shortening (hyperintensity)
 - predominantly on putamen, but also caudate and GP
 - contralateral to abnormal movements
- T2W/FLAIR - variable hyperintensity
- T2*/GRE - hypointensity
- DWI - variable
- CT - elevated attenuation
- Often resolves completely or partially after correction of hyperglycemia



Nonketotic Hyperglycemic Chorea

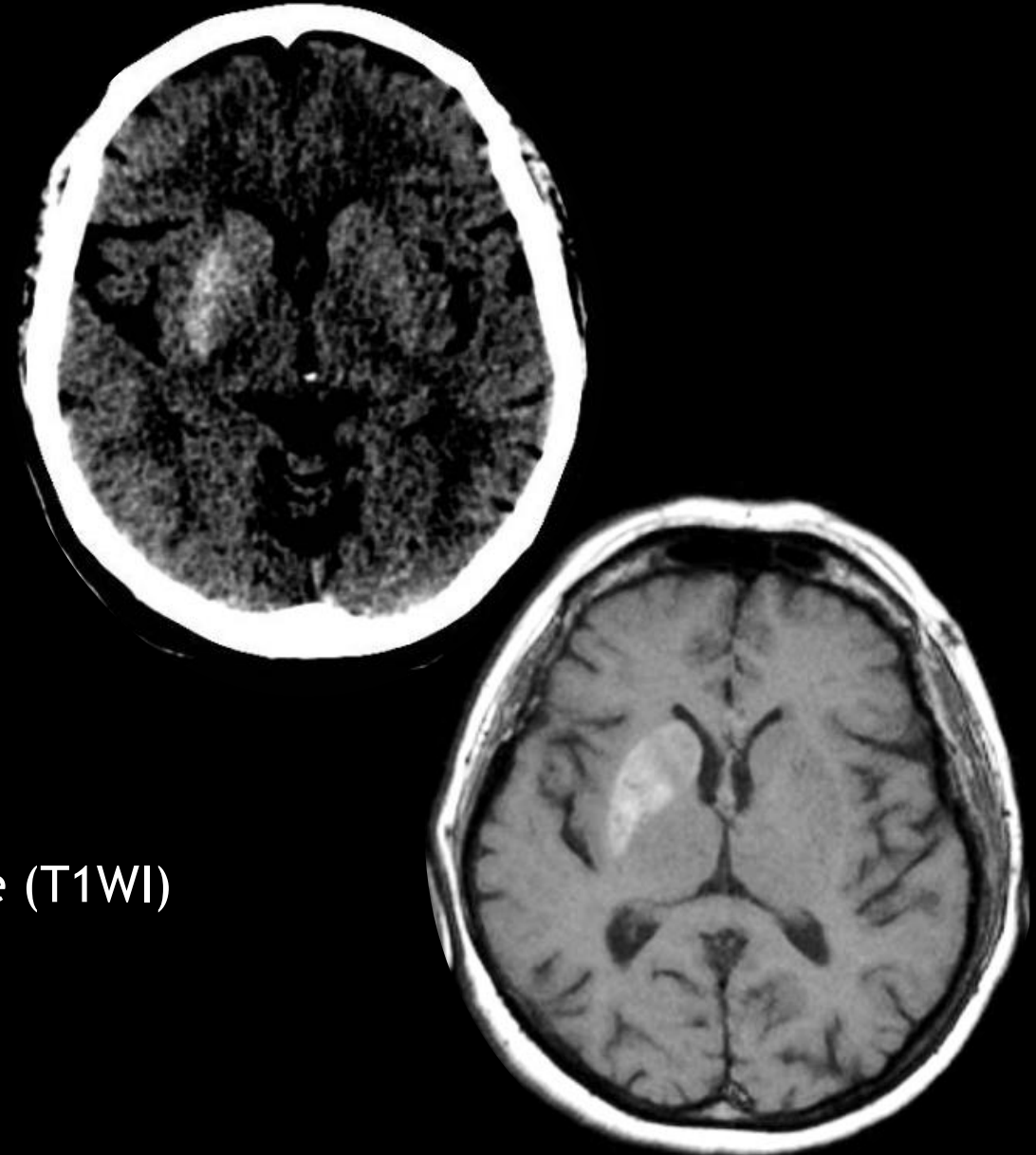
Imaging Differential Diagnosis

Unilateral Involvement



- Basal ganglia acute hemorrhage
 - hypertensive
 - hemorrhagic transformation lenticulostriate infarct
- Basal ganglia calcifications

Bilateral Involvement

- Wilson's Disease (T1WI)
- Manganese Accumulation - Chronic Liver Disease (T1WI)
- Basal ganglia calcifications (T1WI and CT)



Case Series of 46 Patients With Nonketotic Hyperglycemia-associated Chorea: A Retrospective Follow-up Study

Xiaoyan Wu,^{1,*} Ruying Fu,^{2,*} Chao Yuan,^{4,6,7} Ruting Fu,⁵ Shijian Luo,² Zhihui Mo,² Li Shi,¹ Jianjun Guo,^{1,*}  and Qingyu Shen^{3,*} 

¹Department of Neurology, The Fourth Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou Medical University, Guangzhou 511300, China

²Department of Neurology, Fifth Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-Sen University, Sun Yat-Sen University, Zhuhai 519000, China

³Department of Neurology, Memorial Hospital of Sun Yat-Sen, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou 511300, China

⁴Department of Neurology, Southern Medical University Nanfang Hospital, Guangzhou 510515, China

⁵Department of Pediatric, Kiang Wu Hospital, Macao 999078, China

⁶Center for Basic Medical Research & Department of Cardiovascular Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Tianjin 300457, China

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Correspondence: Qingyu Shen, PhD, Department of Neurology, Memorial Hospital of Sun Yat-Sen, Sun Yat-Sen University, No. 117 Yanjiang West Rd, Guangzhou, Guangdong Province 510000, China. Email: super-shen@126.com; or Jianjun Guo, PhD, Department of Neurology, The Fourth Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou Medical University, No. 1 Guangming East Rd, Guangzhou, Guangdong Province 511300, China. Email: 13650717541@163.com.

*All authors contributed equally to the study.

LAB-CHEMISTRY OFF CAMPUS

Take-home Points:

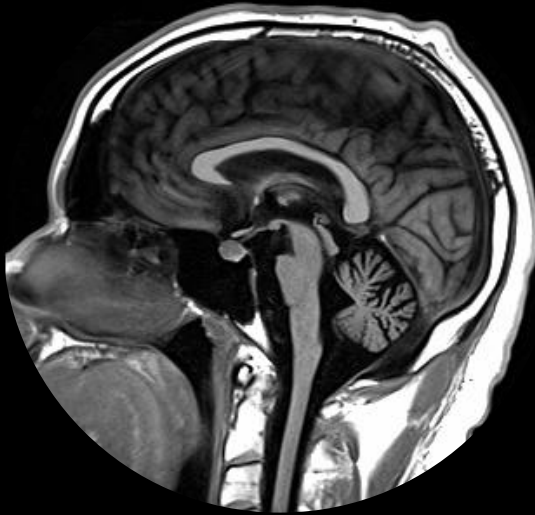
- Retrospective cohort of 46 patients – largest to date
- Mean age 68.6 years (48-89), equal sex distribution
- Hyperglycemia (mean Hgb A1c 11.4% +- 3.8%) and T1 shortening on contralateral BG universal
- 25% patients presented with normoglycemia at admission yet typical chorea and MRI with T1-weighted changes
- 2 cases had worsening symptoms despite MRI signal resolution – paradoxical imaging changes

Case #2 – Progressive Incoordination + Speech Changes

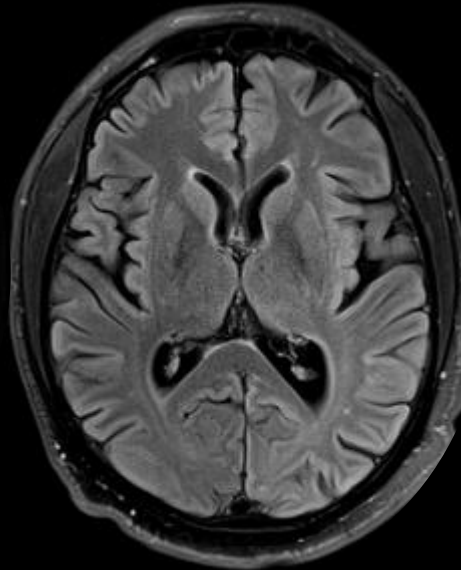
- 36 yo right handed male
- Initial symptoms (6 yr prior): trouble playing video games, then trouble walking on uneven surfaces (i.e. walking or jumping on a trampoline)
- Speech difficulties started 3 years ago (others mentioned his voice was different)
- No sensory disturbances, dysphagia, vision changes, cognition changes, bowel or bladder changes, REM sleep behavior disorder, orthostatic complaints, or weakness that he complains of. No family history of similar neurologic changes or early deaths. No significant alcohol use.
- Physical: Dysmetria, L > R, slurred speech. No motor or sensory deficit. Intact cognition. Orthostatic hypotension.

Case #2

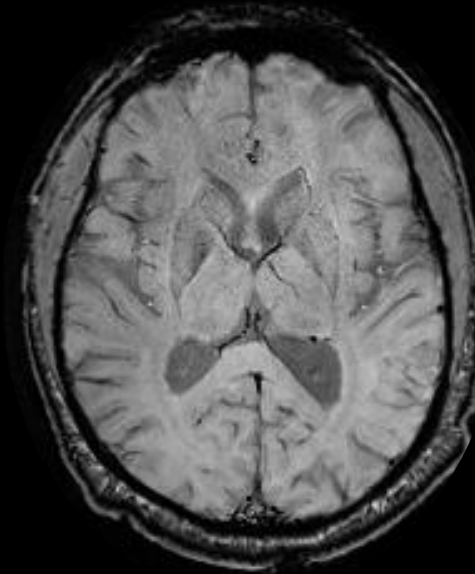
Sag T1W



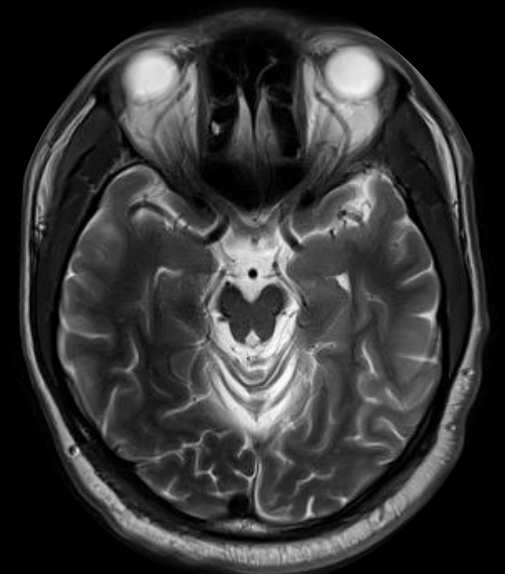
T2W FLAIR



T2*W GRE



T2W TSE



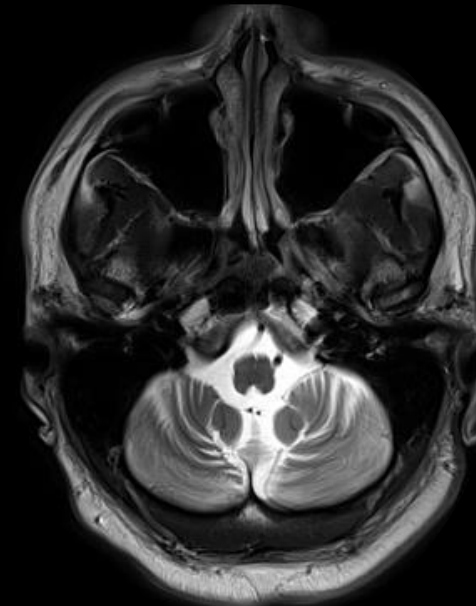
T2W TSE



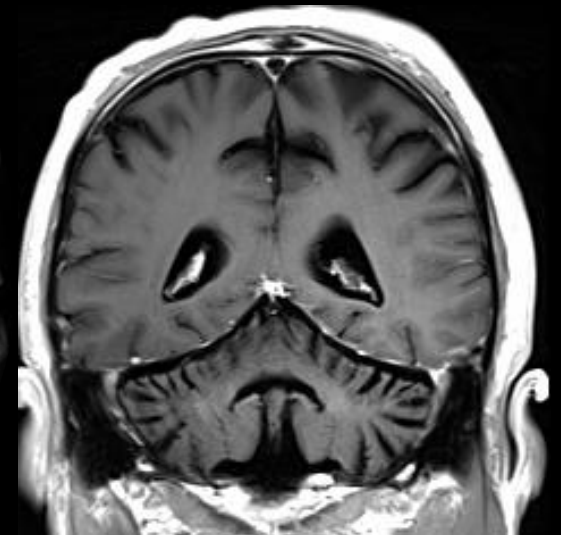
T2W TSE

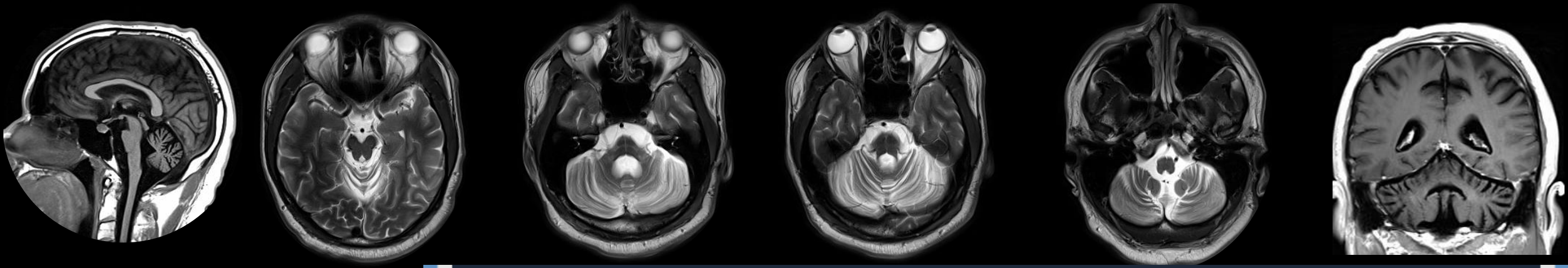


T2W TSE



Cor T1W Gd+





Case #2 – Progressive Incoordination + Speech Changes

Case #2 - Regarding the disease mechanism for this process, which is correct :

0

The combination of clinical and imaging findings suggest a tauopathy

0%

The combination of clinical and imaging findings suggests a synucleinopathy

0%

This patient likely has an immune mediated disorder which will likely benefit from steroids

0%

Patient workup should prioritize exclusion of a systemic malignancy

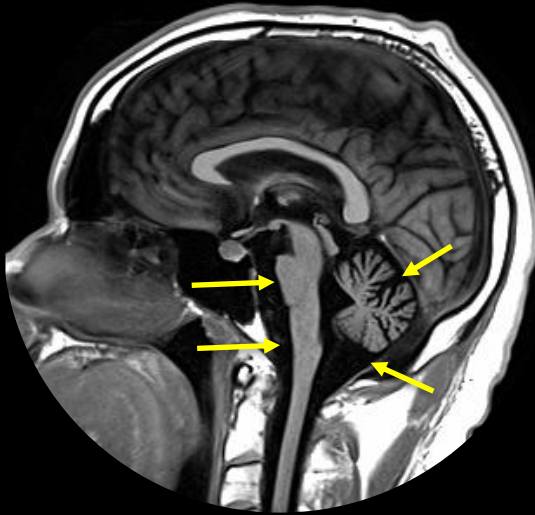
0%

Genetic testing will likely yield a specific diagnosis

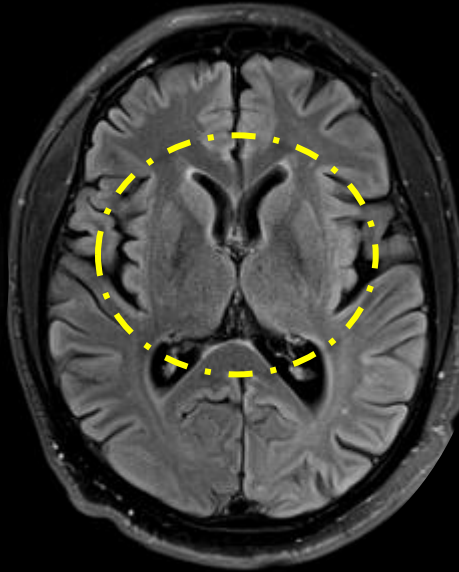
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Case #2

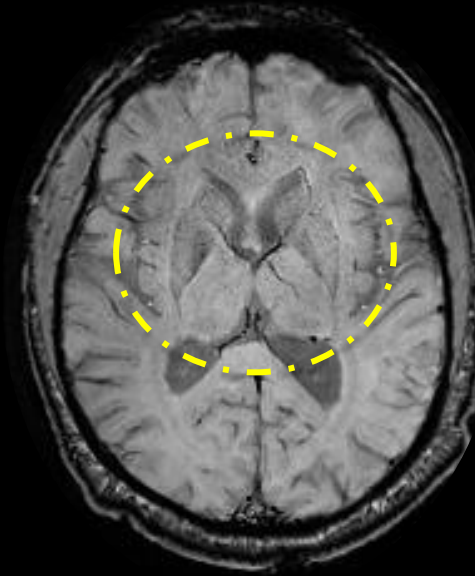
Sag T1W



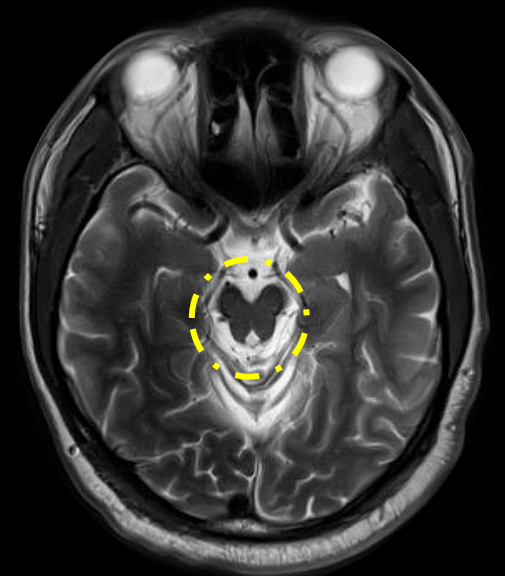
T2W FLAIR



T2*W GRE



T2W TSE



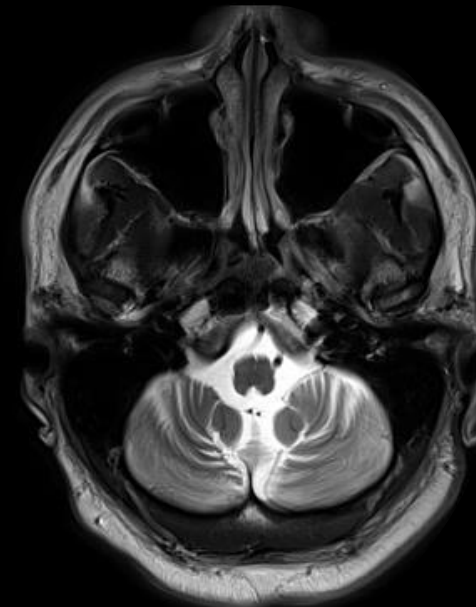
T2W TSE



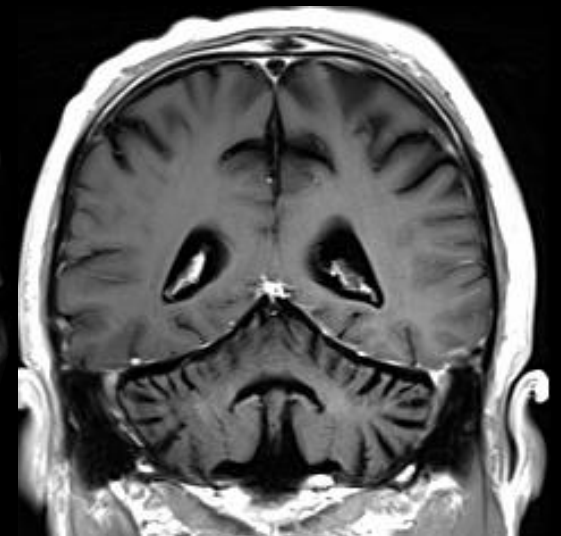
T2W TSE



T2W TSE

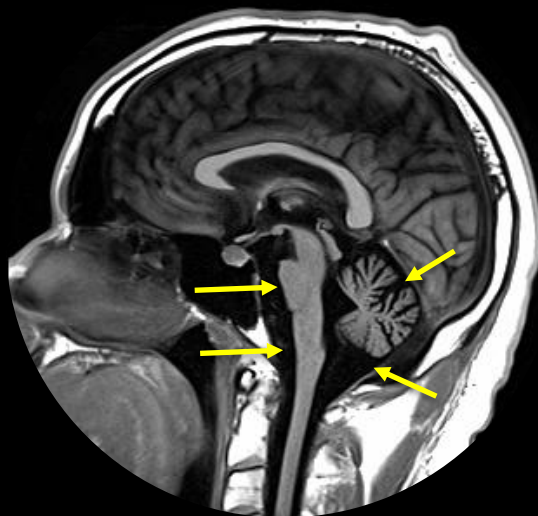


Cor T1W Gd+

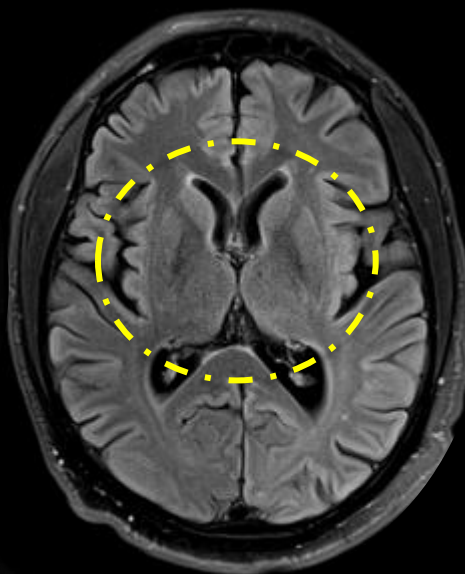


Case #2

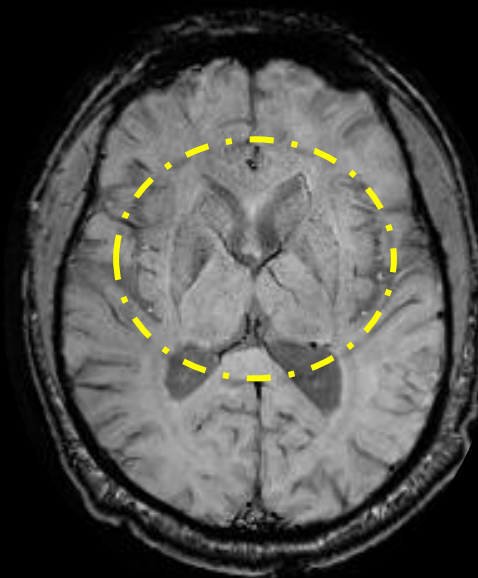
Sag T1W



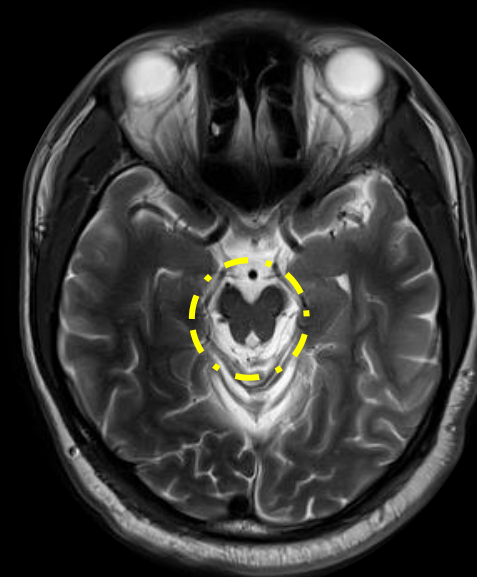
T2W FLAIR



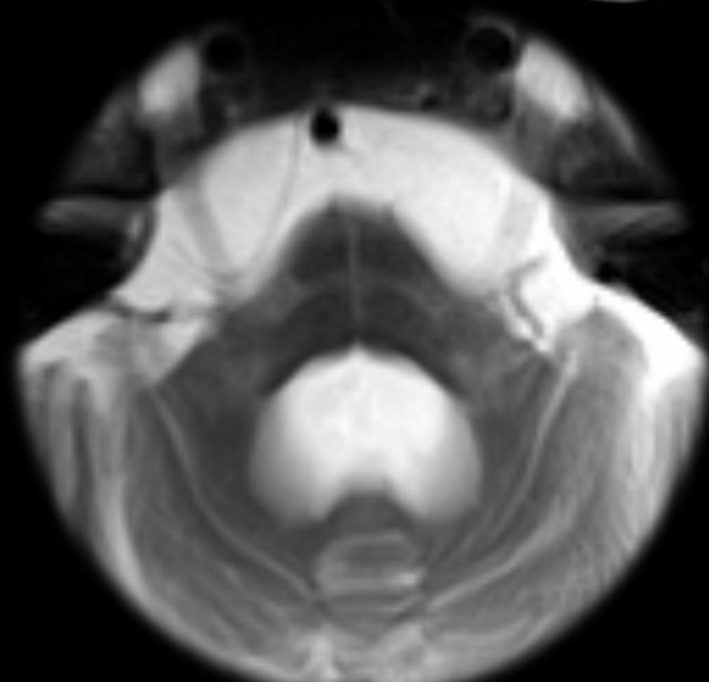
T2*W GRE



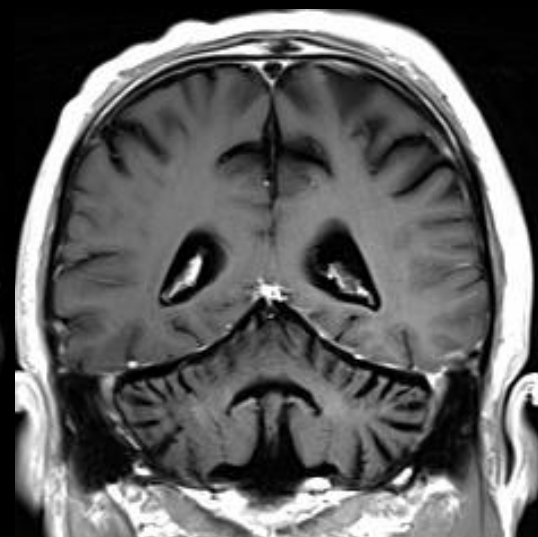
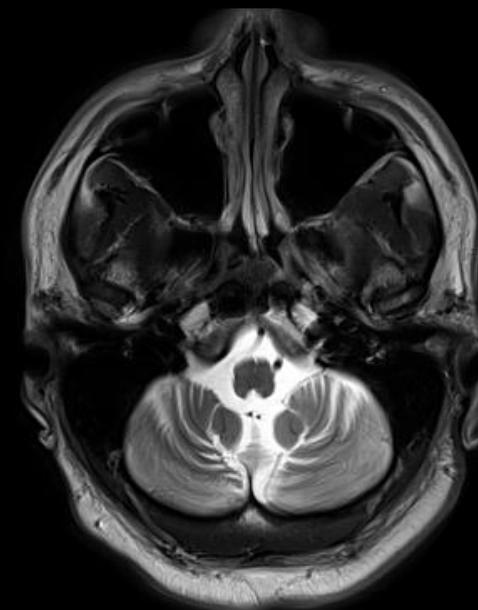
T2W TSE



T2W TSE



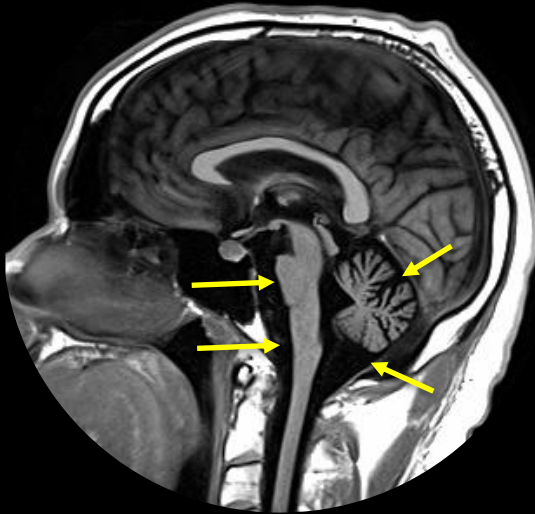
Cor T1W Gd+



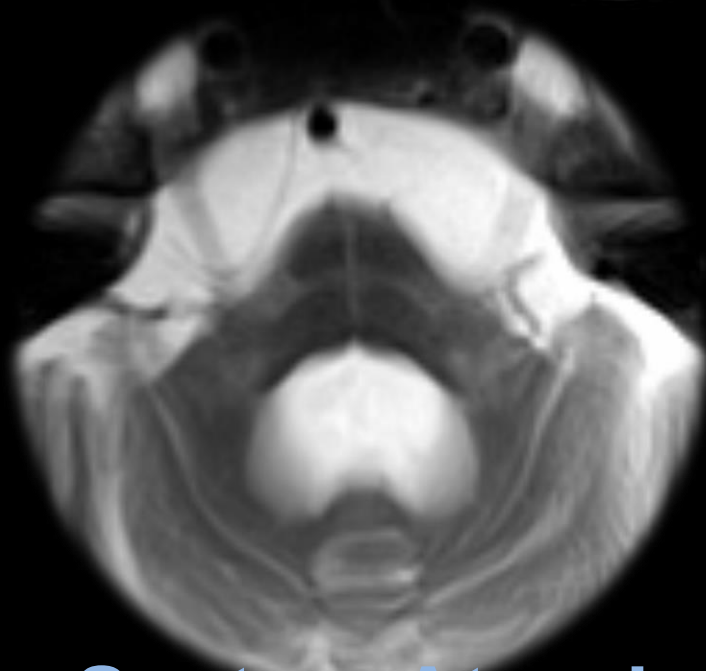
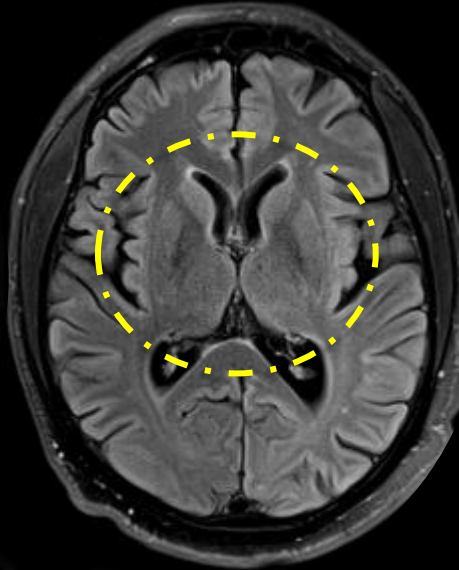
“Hot Cross Bun” Sign

Case #2

Sag T1W



T2W FLAIR



Case #2 Diagnostic Checklist

- Young male
- Slowly progressive incoordination
- Speech changes
- Cerebellar Symptoms
- Autonomic dysfunction
- Imaging
 - cerebellar + brainstem atrophy
 - “hot cross bun” sign

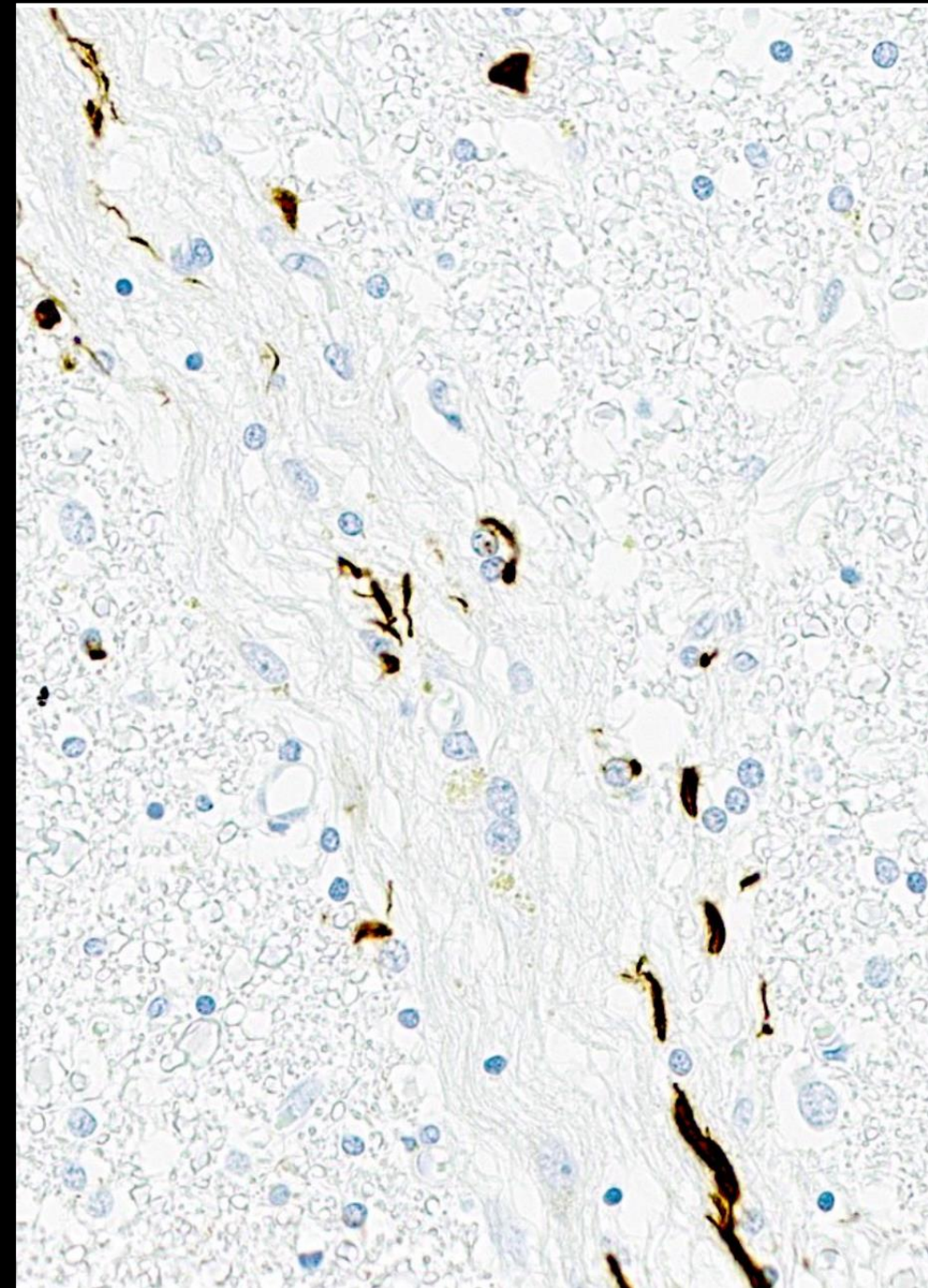
Multiple System Atrophy – Cerebellar Type (MSA-c)

Multiple System Atrophy

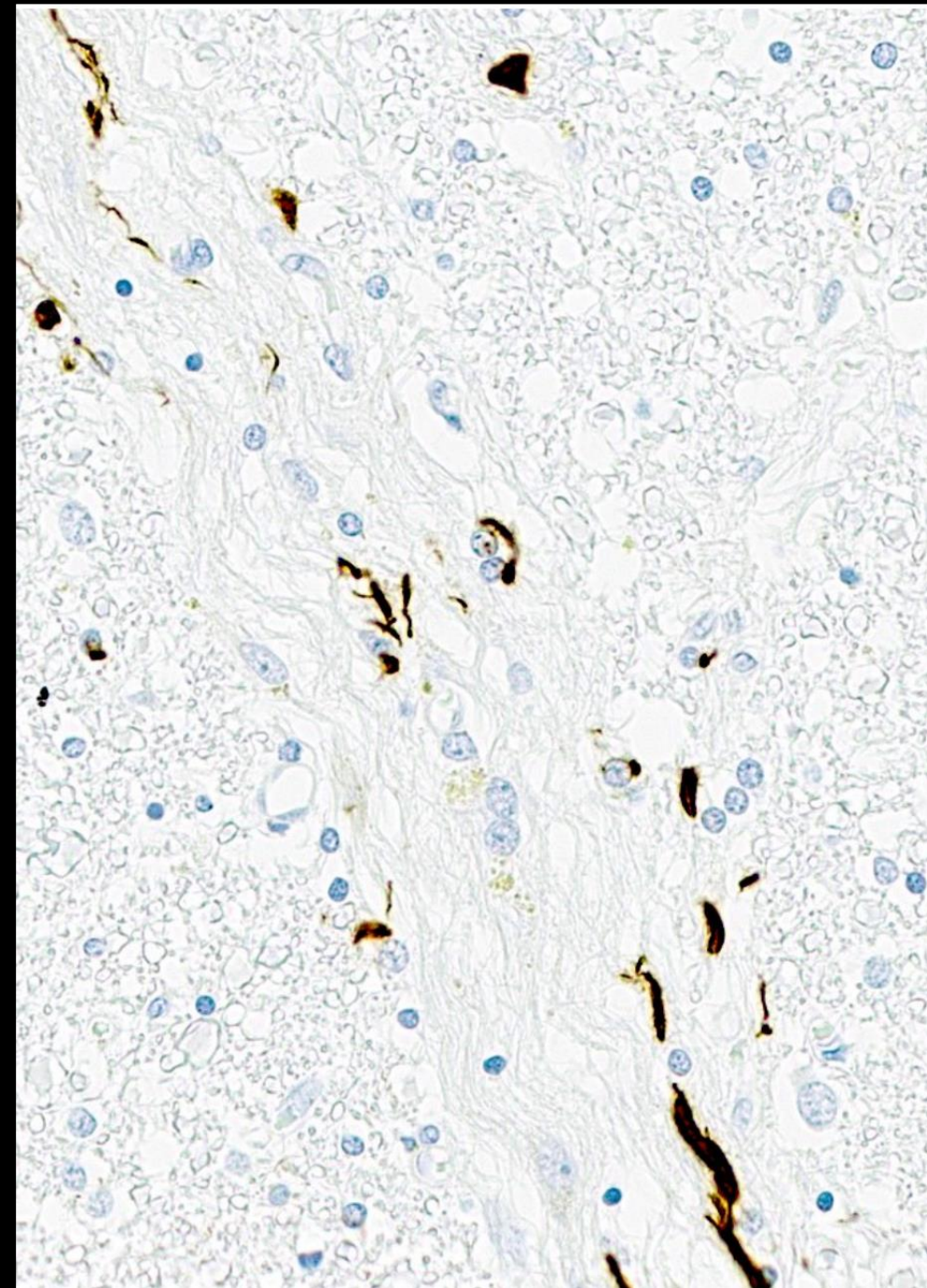
- Rare, adult-onset, sporadic and progressive neurodegenerative disease
- Estimated incidence of 0.6 / 100.000 person-years
- Great geographic variability  

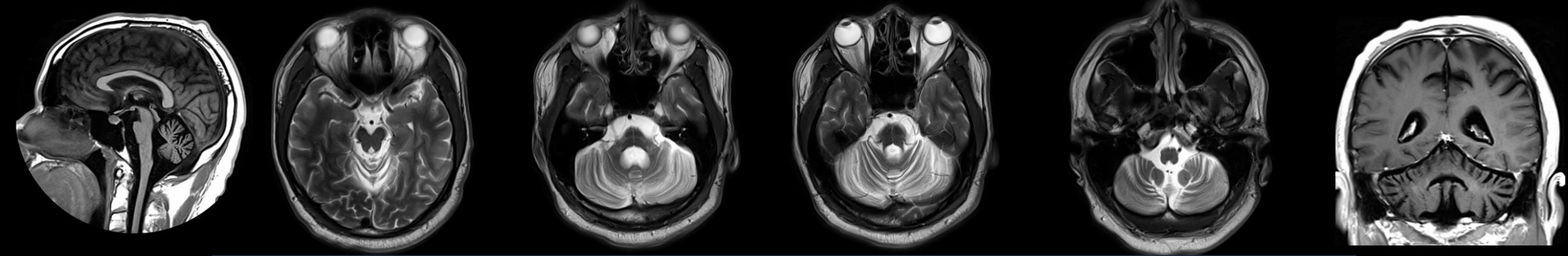
- **Clinical Presentation and Diagnosis**

- Challenging diagnosis
 - rarity
 - overlap other movement disorders
 - lack of specific in vivo diagnostic tool
- Three main syndromes:
 - parkinsonism
 - cerebellar ataxia
 - autonomic failure
- Two subtypes:
 - Parkinsonian predominant (MSA-p)
 - Cerebellar predominant (MSA-c)



Multiple System Atrophy





Regarding the disease mechanism for this process, which is correct :



The combination of clinical and imaging findings suggest a tauopathy (A)



The combination of clinical and imaging findings suggests a synucleinopathy (B)

This patient likely has an immune mediated disorder which will likely benefit from steroids (C)

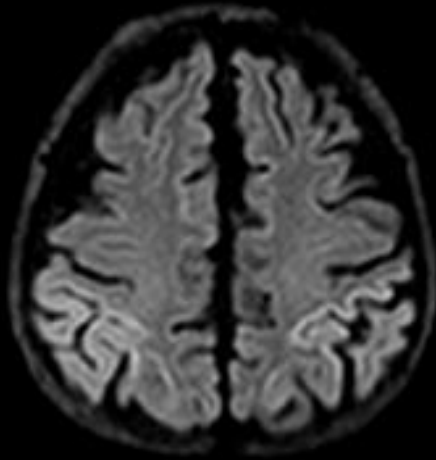
Patient workup should prioritize exclusion of a systemic malignancy (D)

Genetic testing will likely yield a specific diagnosis (E)

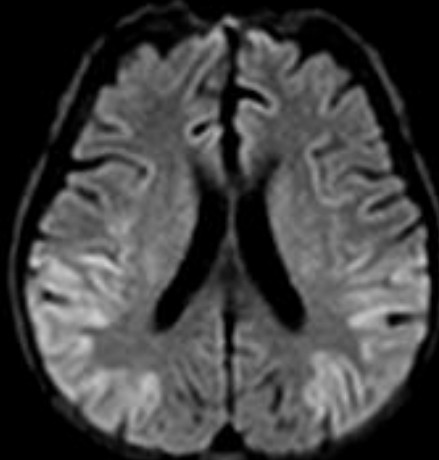
Case #3 – Acute Altered Mental Status

- 60 yo female
- Altered mental status and visual hallucinations. Rapid worsening over 2 days
- Recent GI Bleed and icterus
- PMHx: alcohol abuse and cirrhosis.
- Last drink 24hs ago

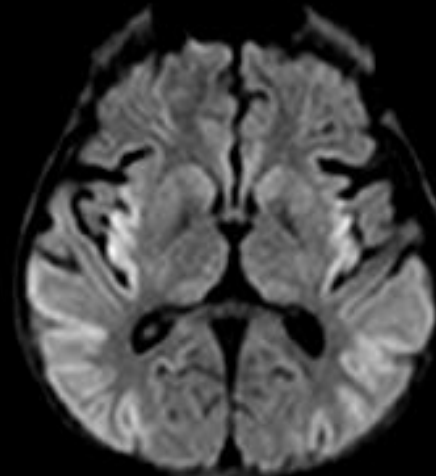
DWI



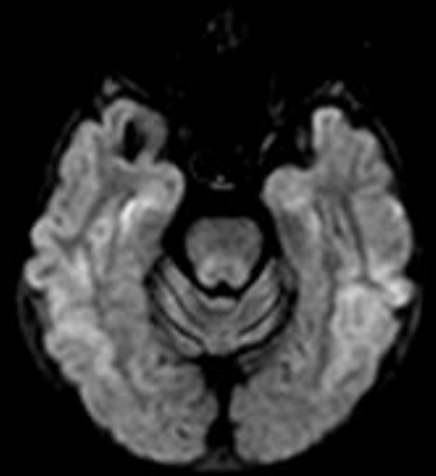
DWI



DWI



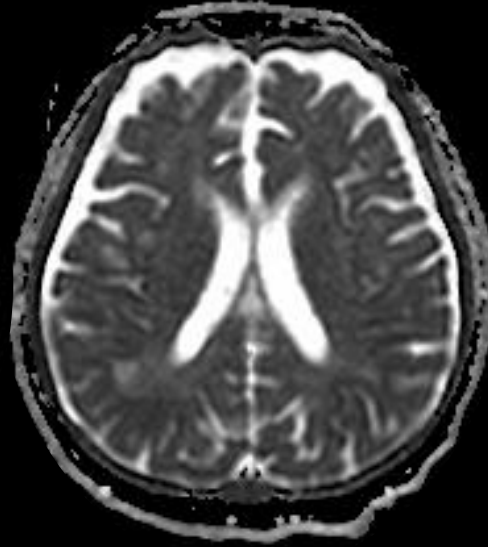
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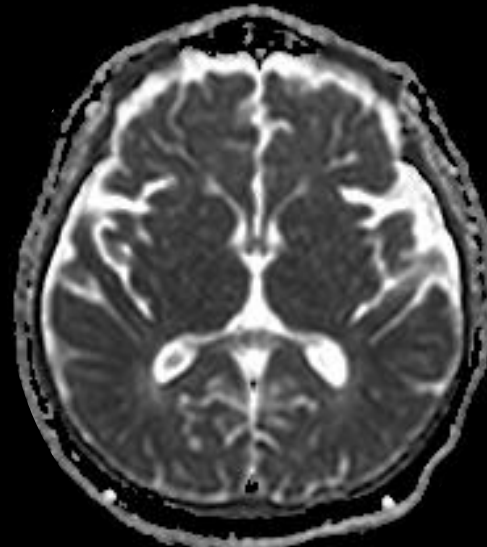
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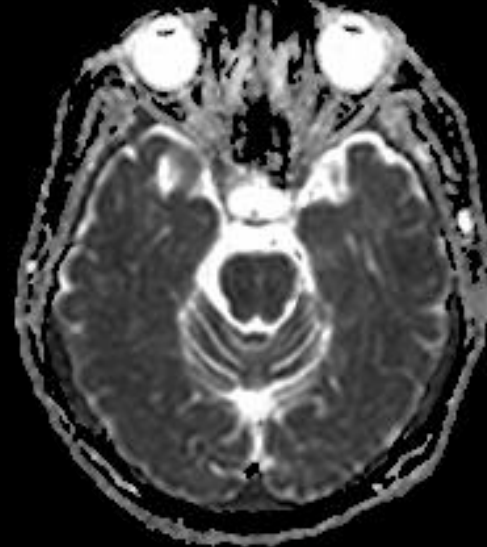
ADC



ADC



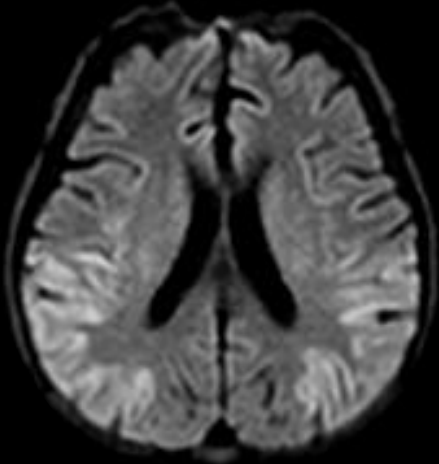
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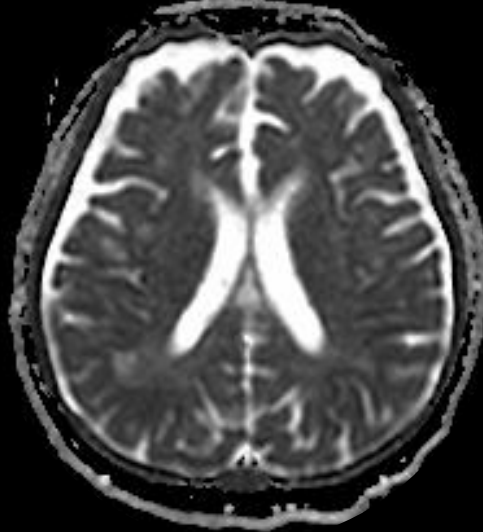
Case #3 – Acute Altered Mental Status

- 60 yo female
- Altered mental status and visual hallucinations. Rapid worsening over 2 days
- Recent GI Bleed and icterus
- PMHx: alcohol abuse and cirrhosis.
- Last drink 24hs ago

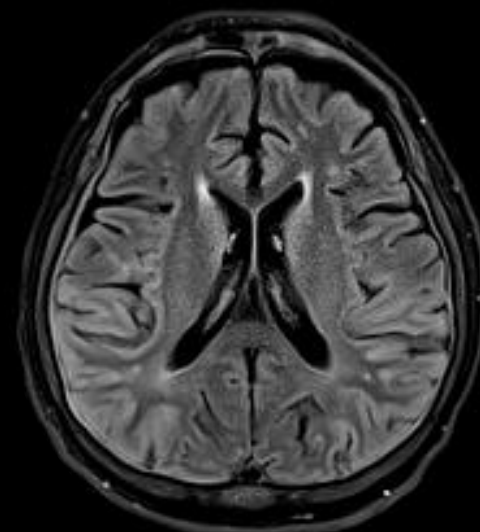
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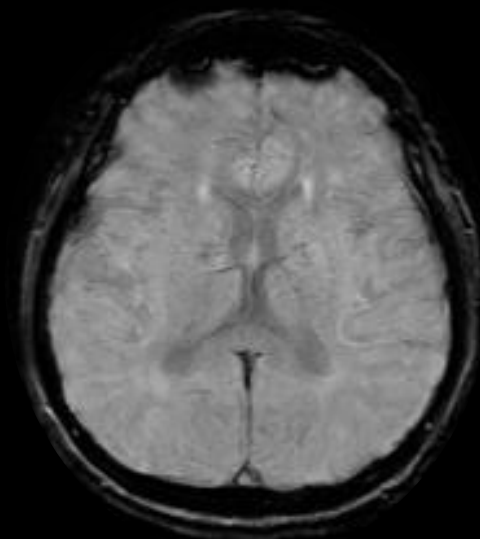
ADC



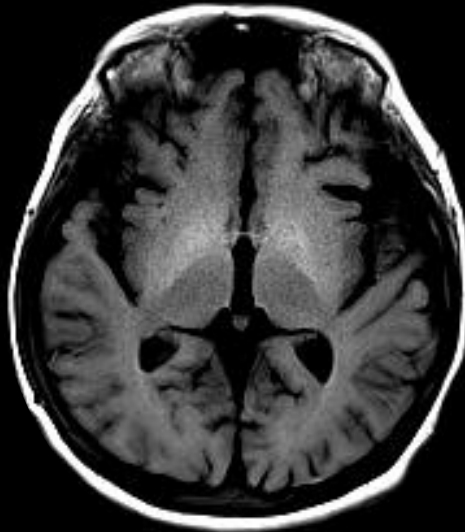
T2-FLAIR



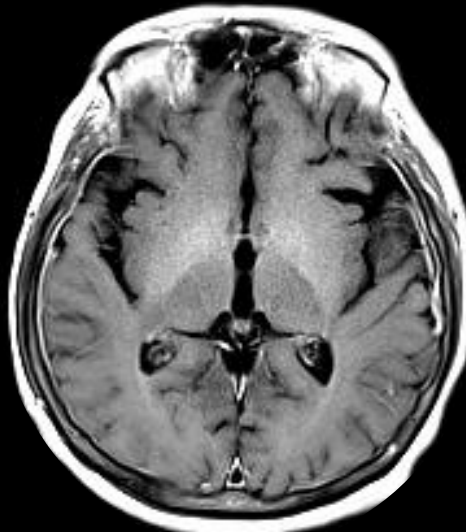
T2-GRE



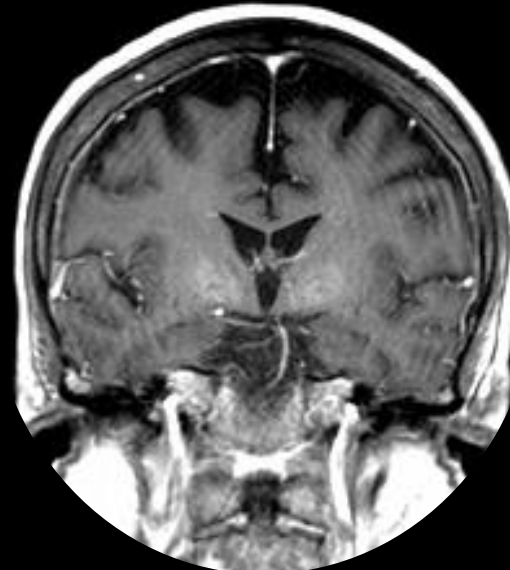
T1WI

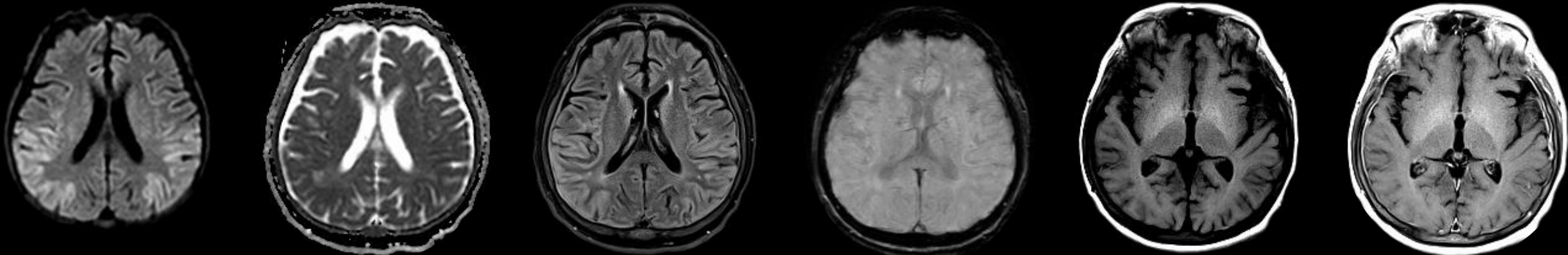


TIW1-Gd



T1 Gd





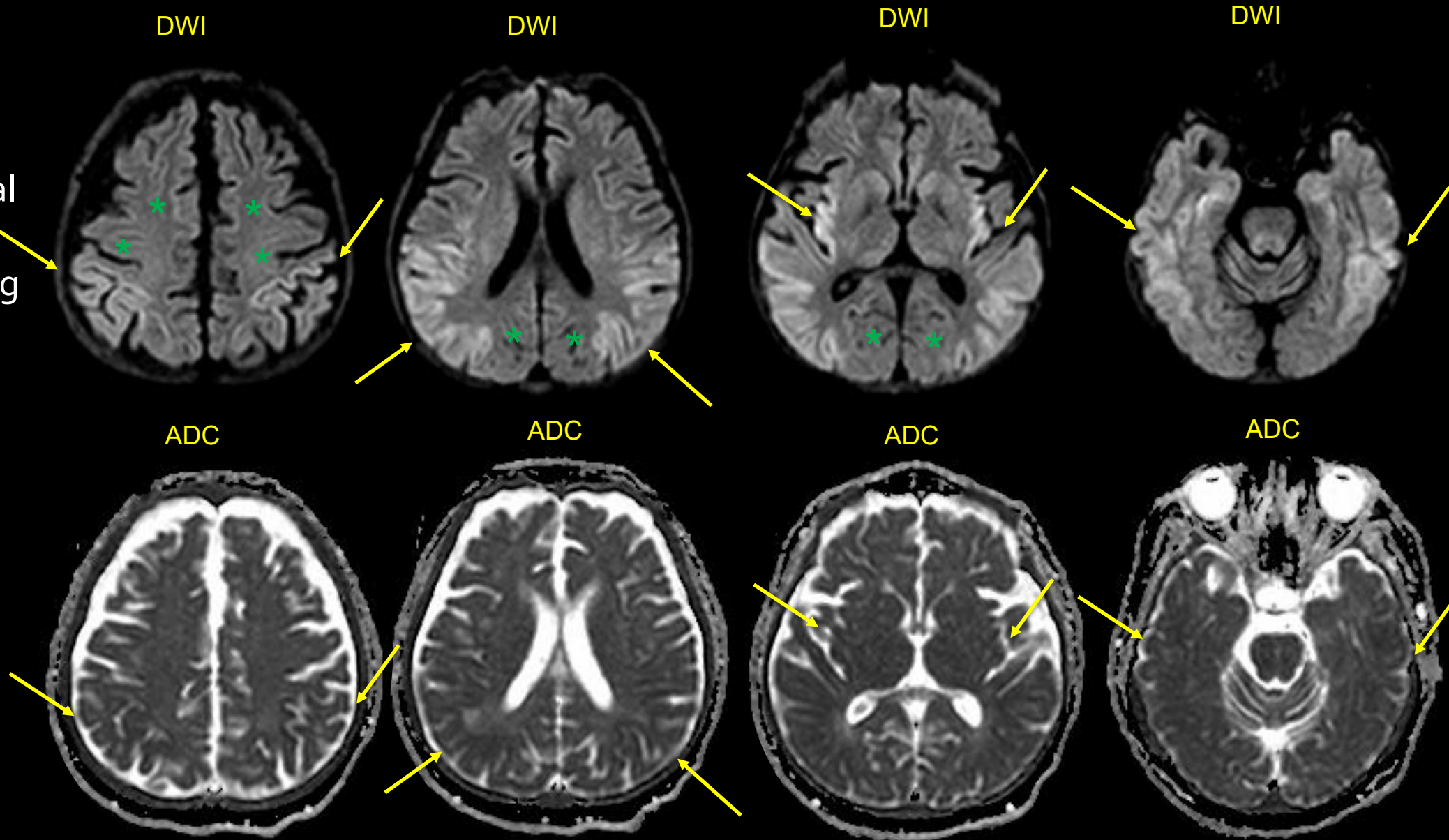
Case #3 – Acute Altered Mental Status

Case #3 - Choose the correct statement regarding this condition:

- Treatment is mainly supportive and may include optimizing cerebral perfusion pressure and targeted temperature management 0%
- Lumbar tap and EEG may create additional strong evidence of the diagnosis 0%
- Antiviral use is the most impactful strategy for this condition 0%
- Treatment of precipitating causes and correction of metabolic abnormalities can improve outcomes 0%

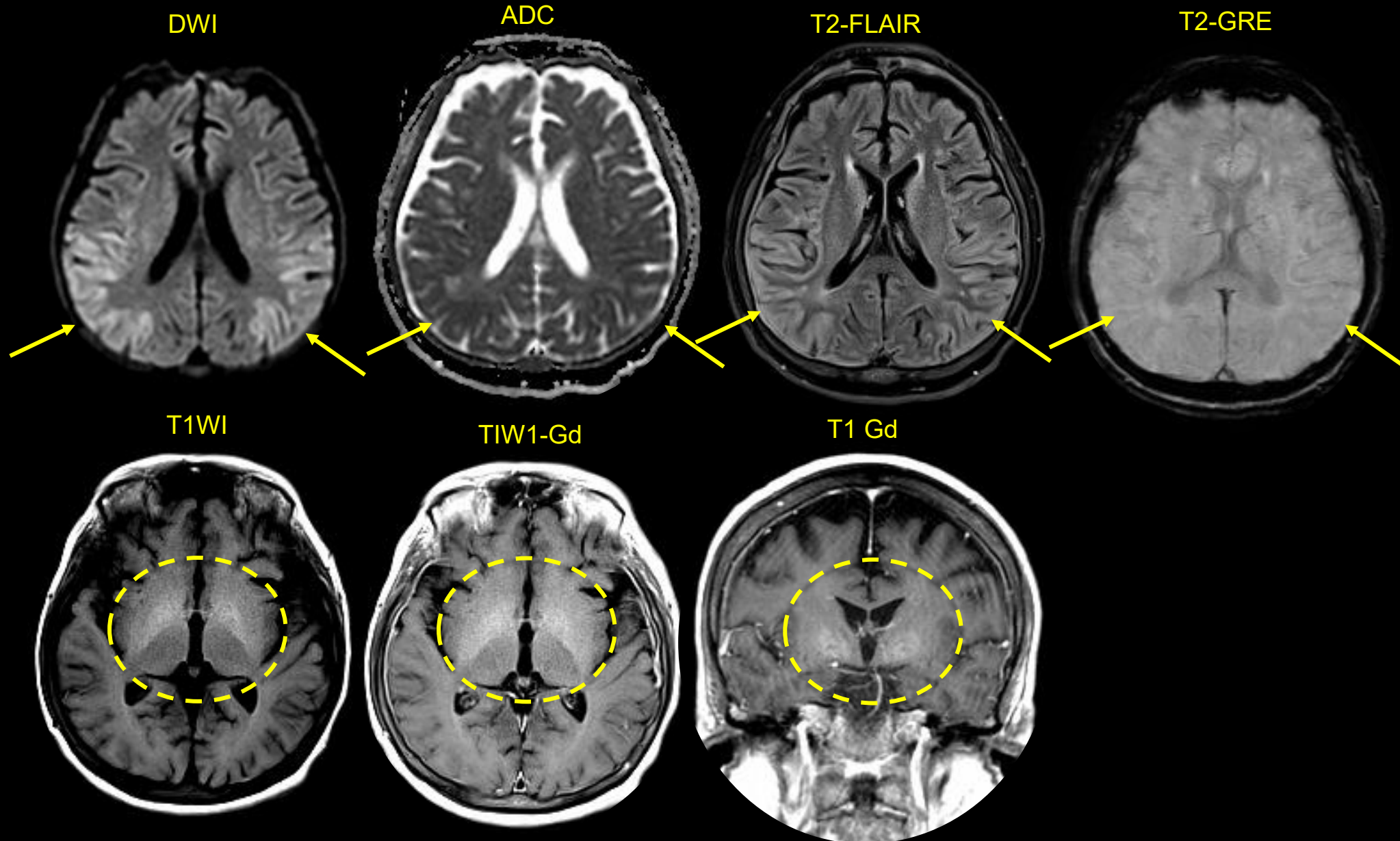
Case #3 – Acute Altered Mental Status

- 60 yo female
- Altered mental status and visual hallucinations. Rapid worsening over 2 days
- GI Bleed and icterus
- PMHx: alcohol abuse and cirrhosis. Last drink 24hs ago



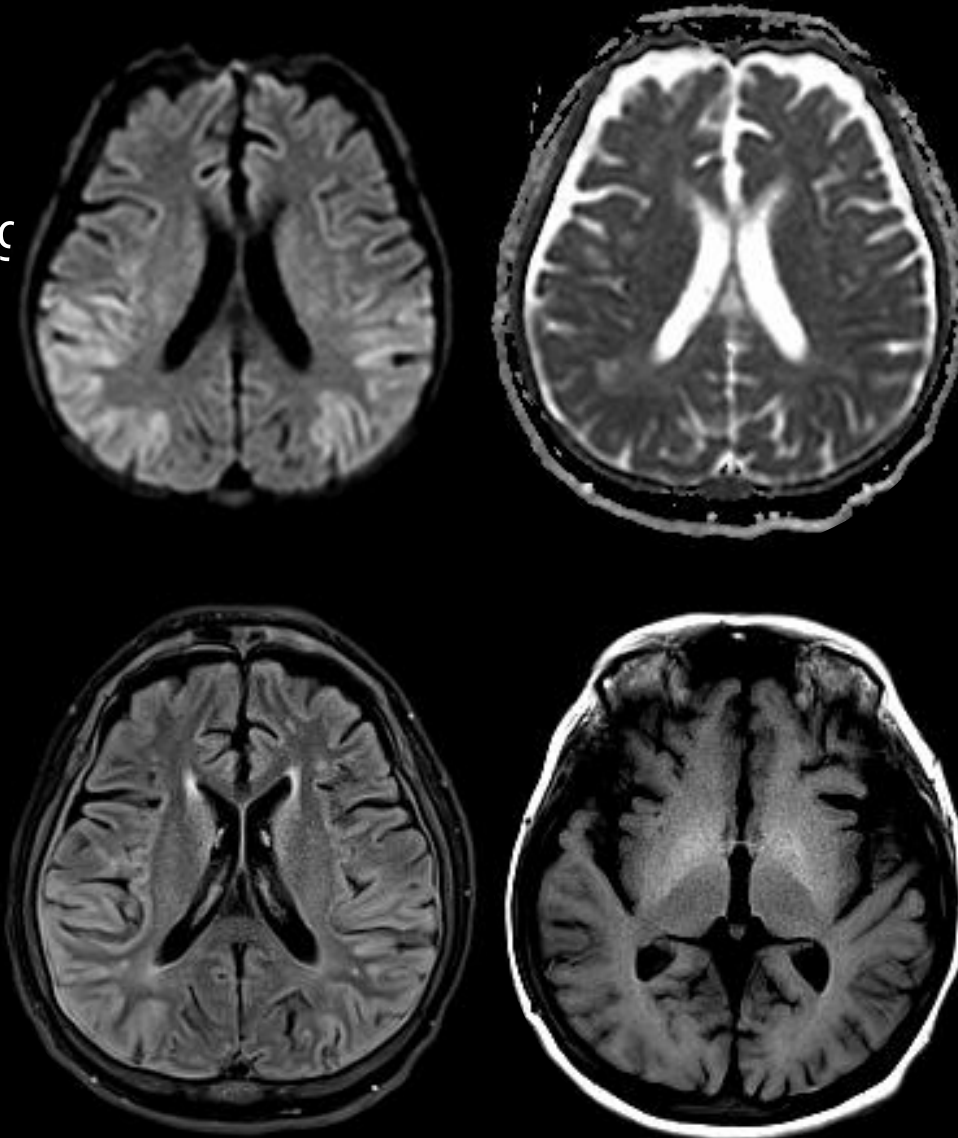
Case #3 – Acute Altered Mental Status

- 60 yo female
- Altered mental status and visual hallucinations. Rapid worsening over 2 days
- Recent GI Bleed and icterus
- PMHx: alcohol abuse and cirrhosis.
- Last drink 24hs ago



Case #3 – Acute Altered Mental Status

- 60 yo female
- Brought to ED: rapidly worsening mental status + visual hallucinations.
- Recent GI Bleed and icterus
- PMHx: alcohol abuse and cirrhosis.
- Last drink 24hs ago



Case #3 Diagnostic Checklist

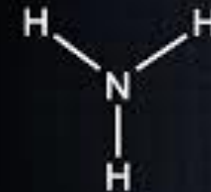
- Elderly female
- Acute change mental status
- Imaging
 - bilateral symmetrical DWI abnormalities non vascular distribution
 - Symmetrical faint T1 elevation GP
- Trigger: Upper GI bleed and icterus
- PMHx: alcohol abuse and cirrhosis

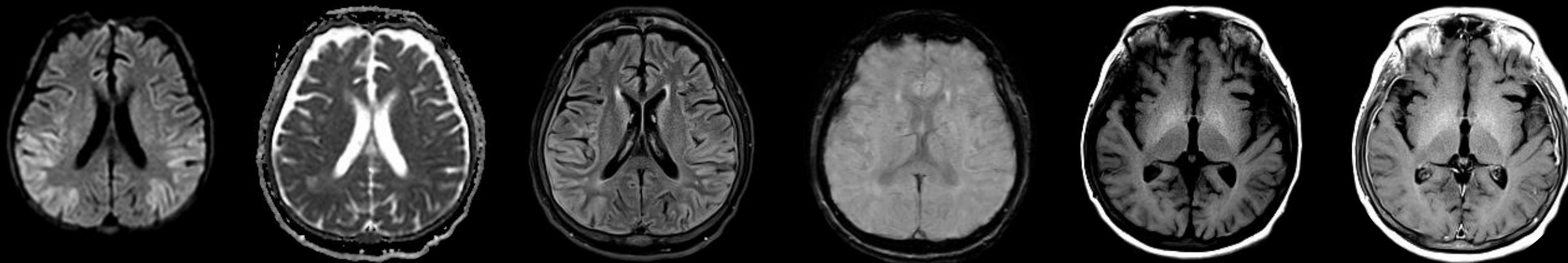
Acute Hyperammonemic Encephalopathy ↑Ammonia: 211μg/dL

Hyperammonemic Encephalopathy



Ammonia
 NH_3





Case #3 – Acute Altered Mental Status

Choose the correct statement regarding this condition:

(A) Treatment is mainly supportive and may include optimizing cerebral perfusion pressure and targeted temperature management

0%

(B) Lumbar tap and EEG may create additional strong evidence of the diagnosis

0%

(C) Antiviral use is the most impactful strategy for this condition

0%

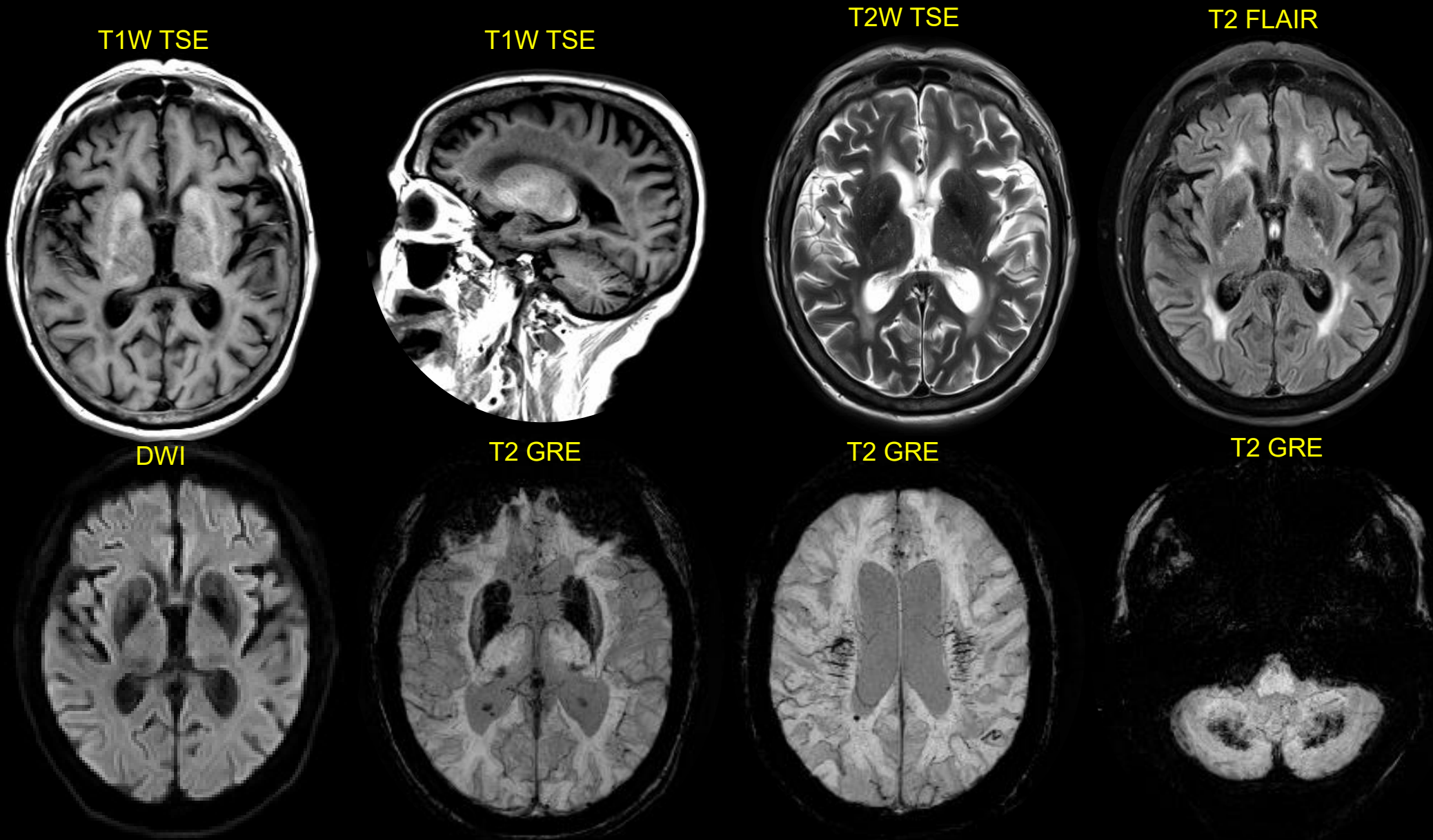


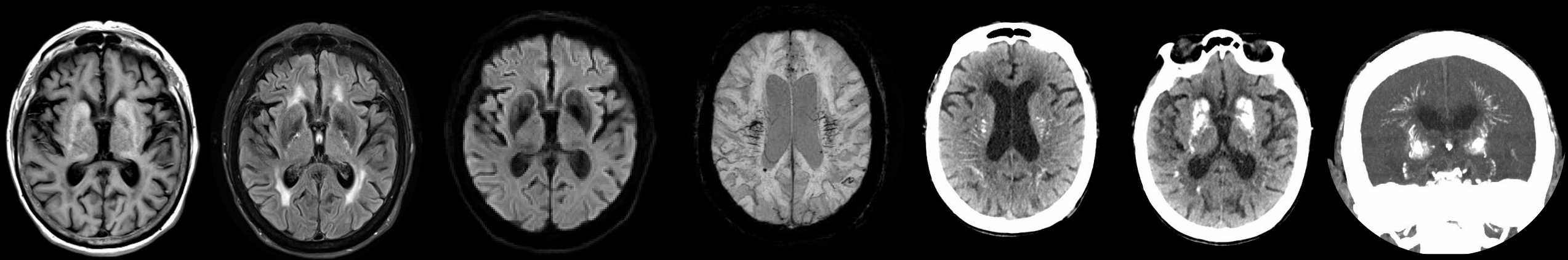
(D) Treatment of precipitating causes and correction of metabolic abnormalities can improve outcomes

0%

Case #4 - Progressively declining gait and speech

- 82 yo F, slowly progressive unsteady gait, slurred speech, cognitive decline
- PMHx: DM2, HTN, prior thyroidectomy for toxic multinodular goiter
- Recurrent hypocalcemia





Case #4 - Progressively declining gait and speech

Case #4 - Choose the correct statement:

This condition has several possible etiologies, both inherited and acquired

0%

Imaging findings are likely physiological and unrelated to the patient's symptoms

0%

There is no treatment for this condition

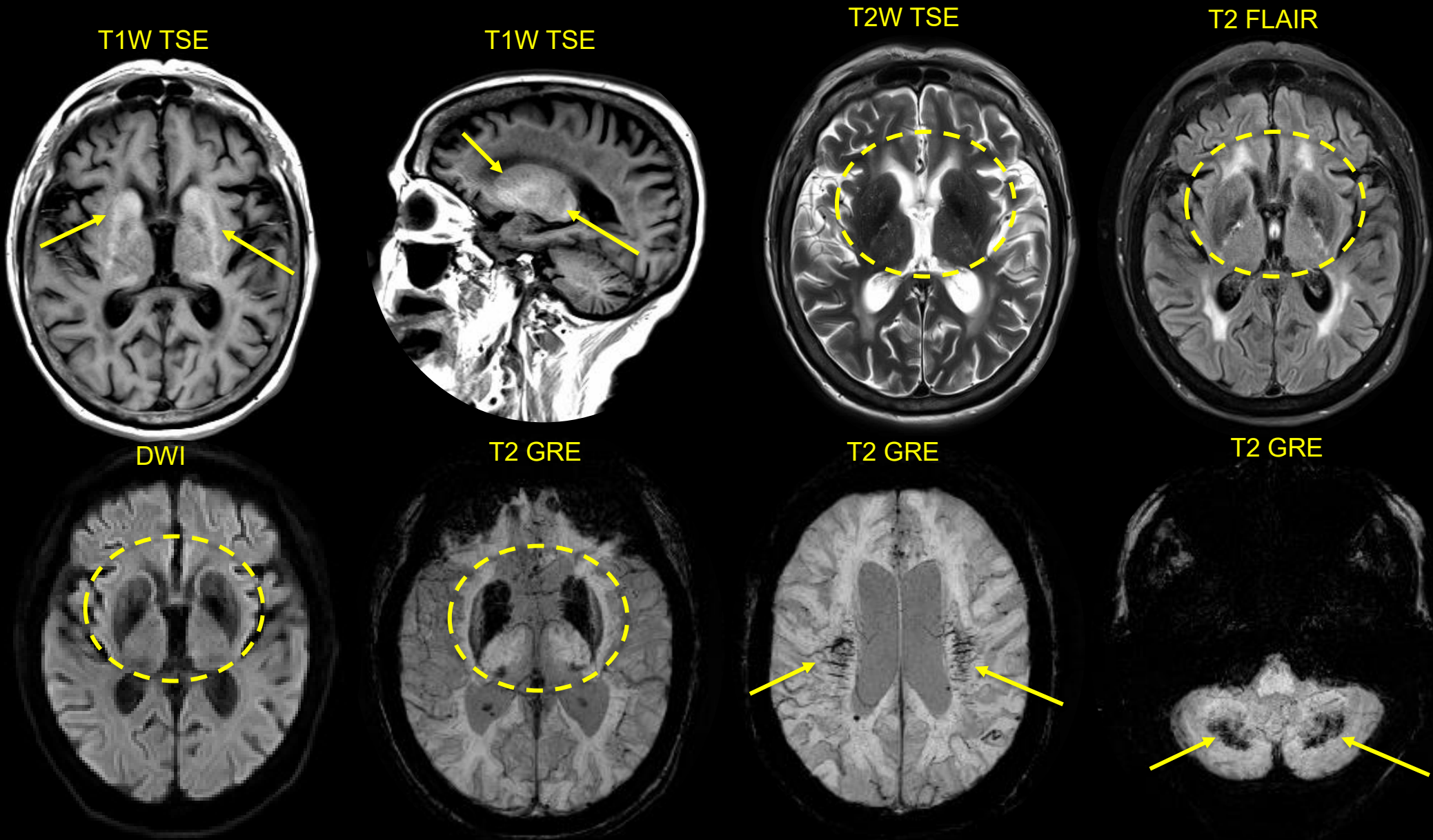
0%

This condition can be made worse by anticoagulants

0%

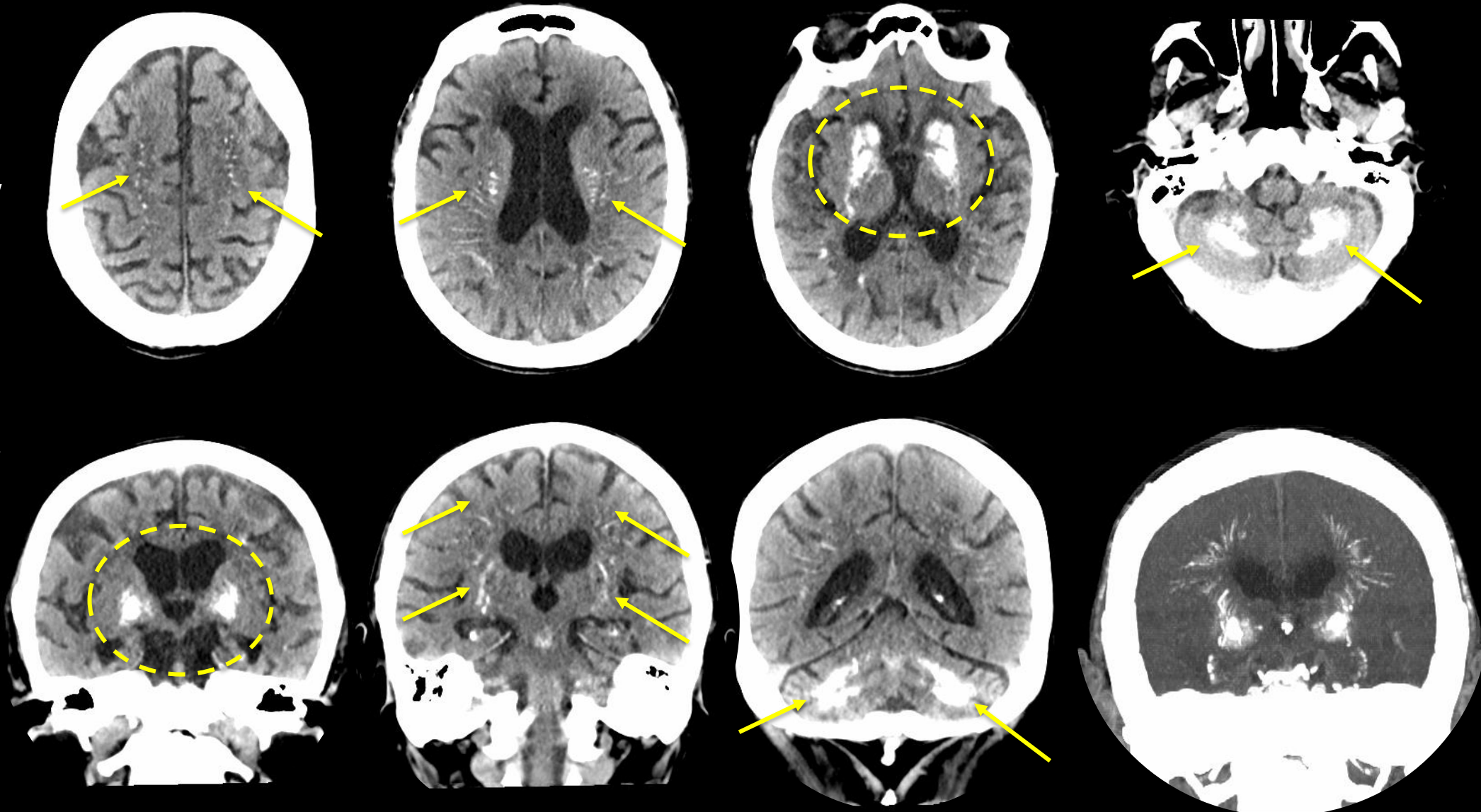
Case #4 - Progressively declining gait and speech

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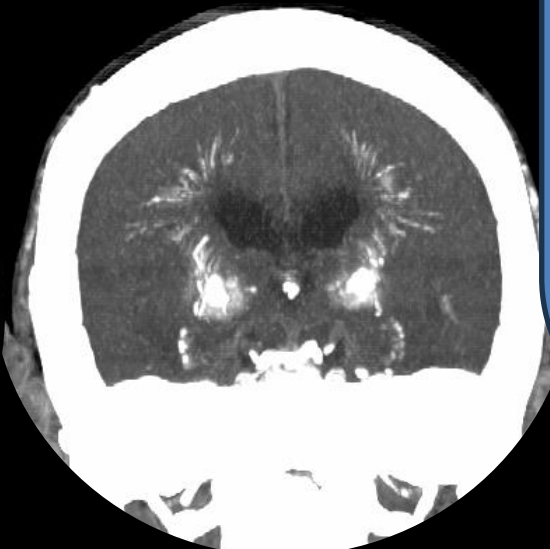
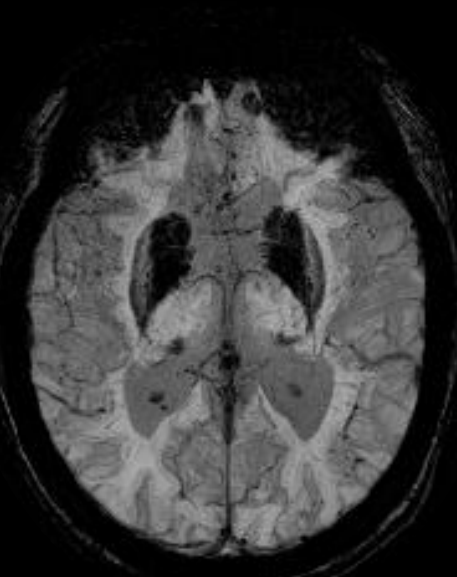
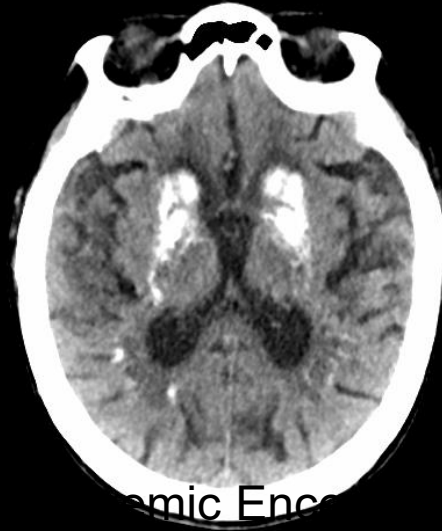
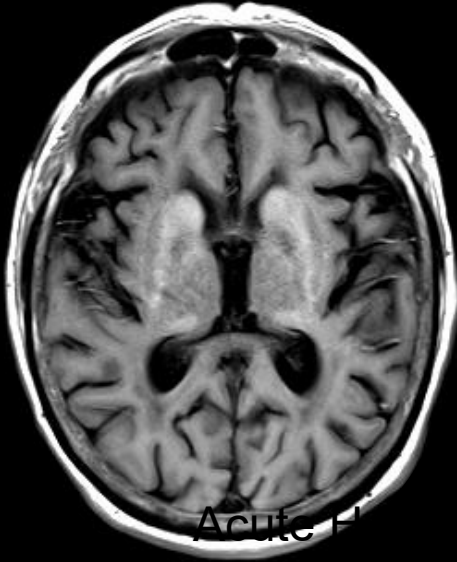
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- Recurrent hypocalcemia



Case #4 Diagnostic Checklist

- Elderly female
- Slowly progressive deterioration
 - gait, speech, cognition
- Imaging
 - Extensive abnormal bilateral calcifications - deep grey nuclei and perivascular WM
 - Atrophy
- PMHx: thyroidectomy and recurrent hypocalcemia (hypoparathyroidism)

Fahr Syndrome (Hypoparathyroidism)

Fahr Syndrome (Bilateral Striatopallidodentate Calcinosi)

- Abnormal vascular calcium deposition (BG, dentate nuclei, WM)
- Atrophy
- Primary (autosomal dominant) or secondary
 - Fahr Disease (Primary Familial Brain Calcification)
- Fahr Syndrome (secondary to endocrinopathies, mitochondrial disorders, infections, radiation therapy, others)

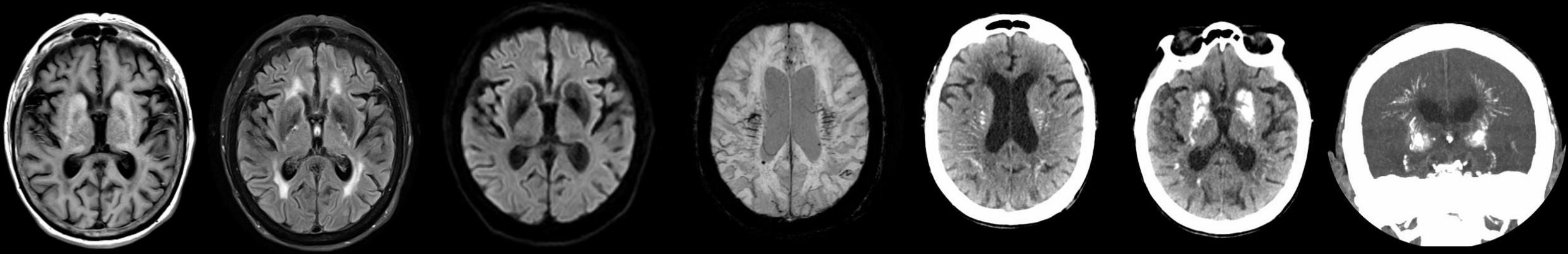
Clinical Presentation and Diagnosis

- Asymptomatic - Incidental Imaging Finding
- Parkinsonism, other movement disorders (chorea, dystonia)
- Psychosis, depression, progressive cognitive impairment

Diagnostic Evaluation and Management

- Investigation of underlying (treatable) causes
- Family history, genetic testing
- Treatment of underlying conditions, otherwise supportive and symptomatic





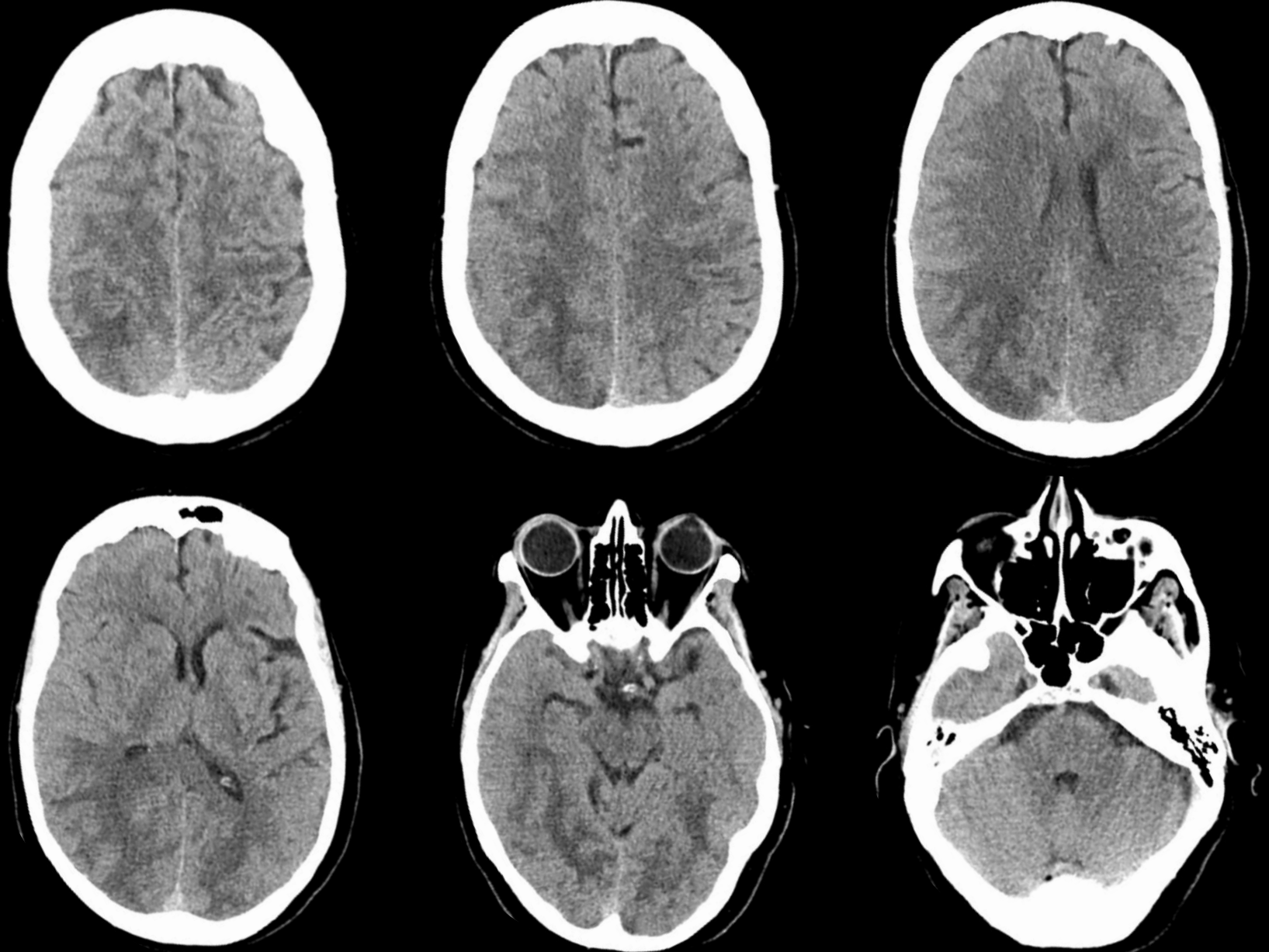
Case #4 - Progressively declining gait and speech

Choose the correct statement:

- ☒ (A) This condition has several possible etiologies, both inherited and acquired 0%
- ☐ (B) Imaging findings are likely physiological and unrelated to the patient's symptoms 0%
- ☐ (C) There is no treatment for this condition 0%
- ☐ (D) This condition can be made worse by anticoagulants 0%

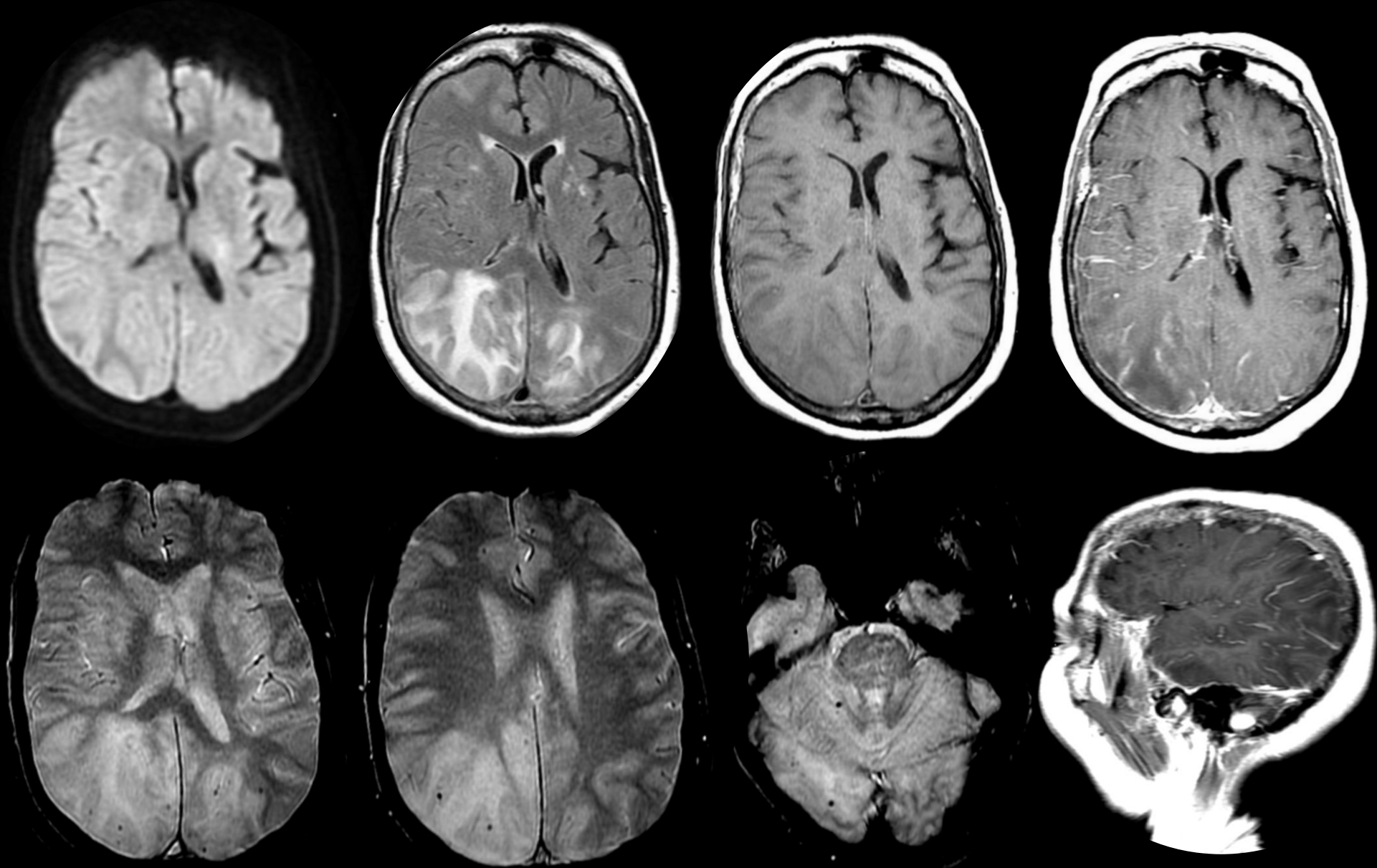
Case #5 - Rapidly Progressive Cognitive Decline

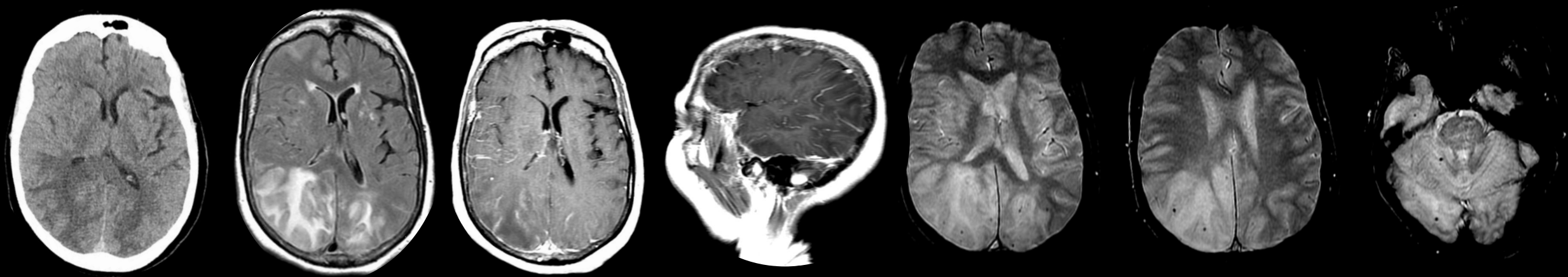
- 75 yo female. Bumping into thing while walking, dizziness, headaches, cognitive decline for a week
- PMHx: Anxiety, hypertension, AD year prior, stable. Donanemab infusions 2 month ago.
- Physical: left visual field defect. Normal vitals and basic labs
- Outside window for thrombolytics and thrombectomy



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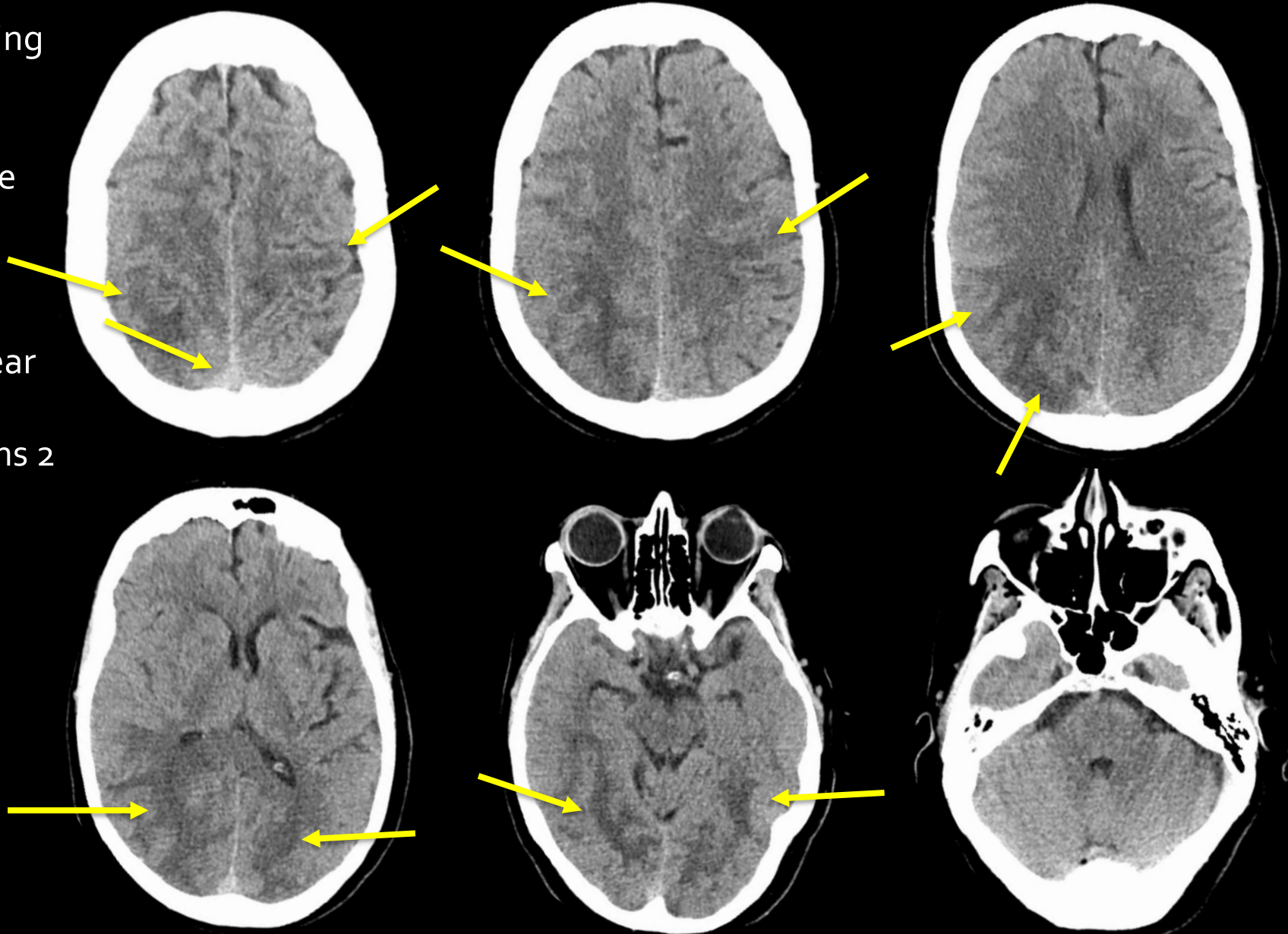


Case #5 - What would be the best initial management ?

- (A) CTA + CT Perfusion for evaluation of vascular etiology 0%
- (B) Broad spectrum antibiotics 0%
- (C) Lumbar puncture and prompt use of acyclovir 0%
- (D) Brain Biopsy 0%
- (E) Discontinuation of all medications, steroids 0%

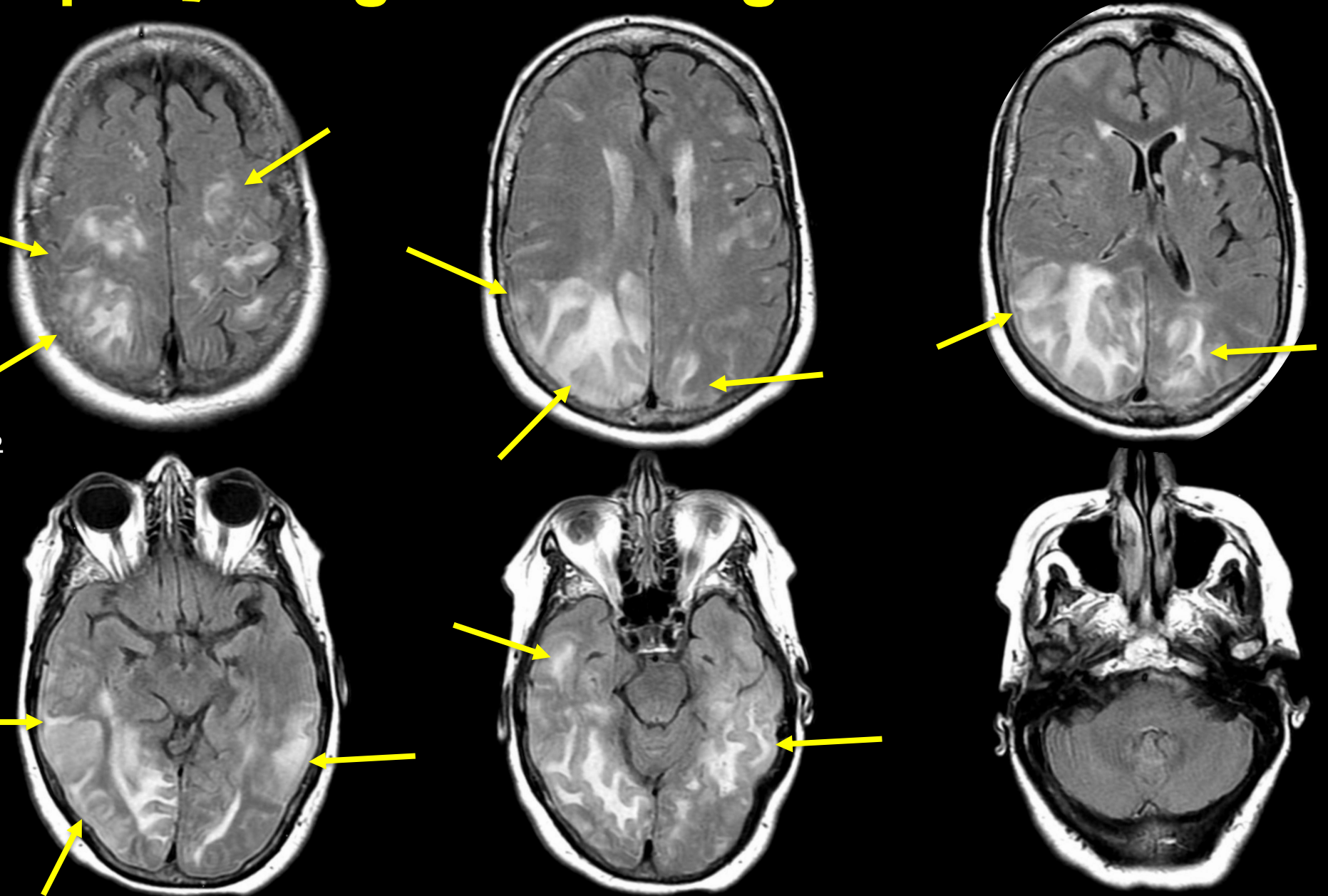
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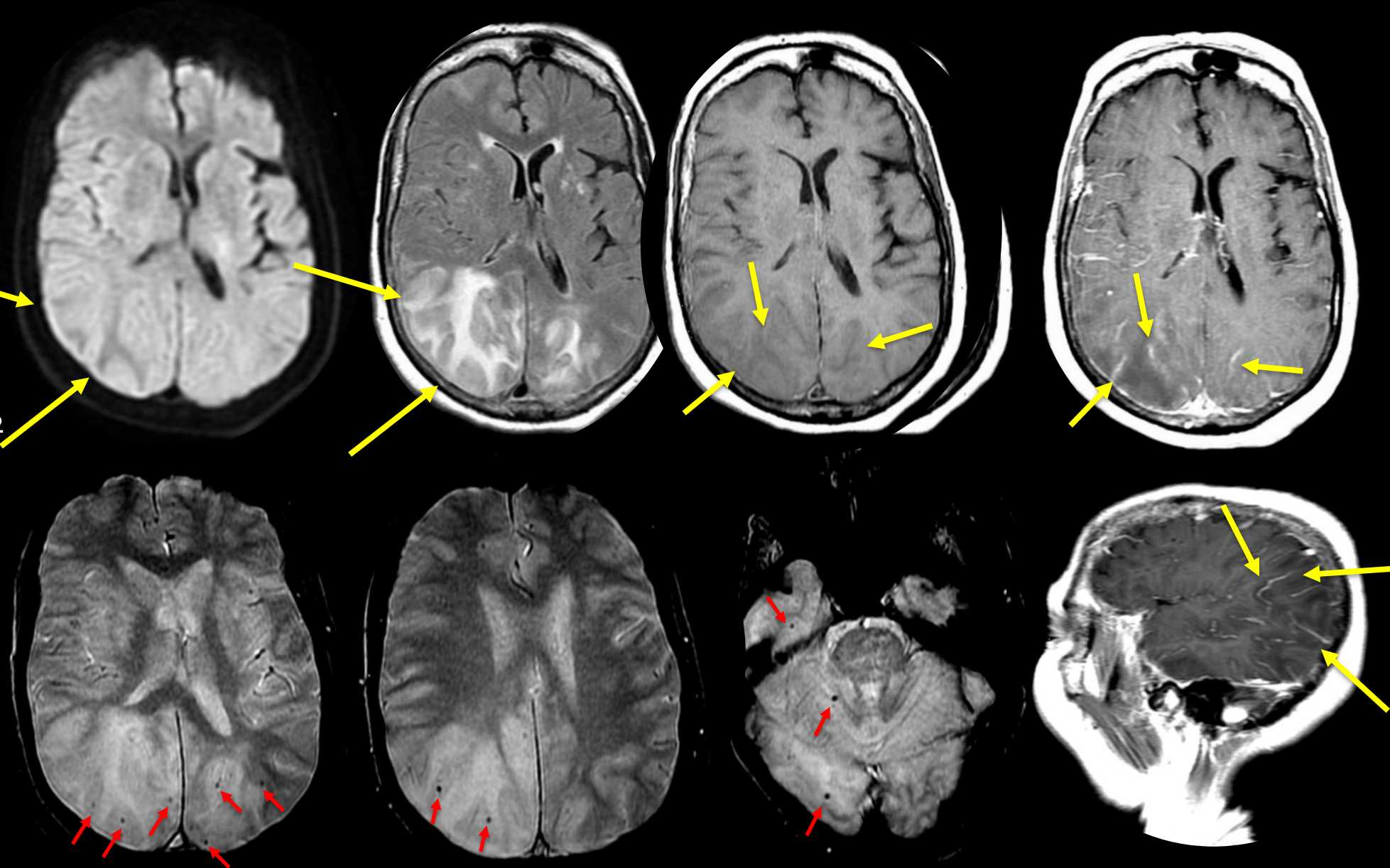
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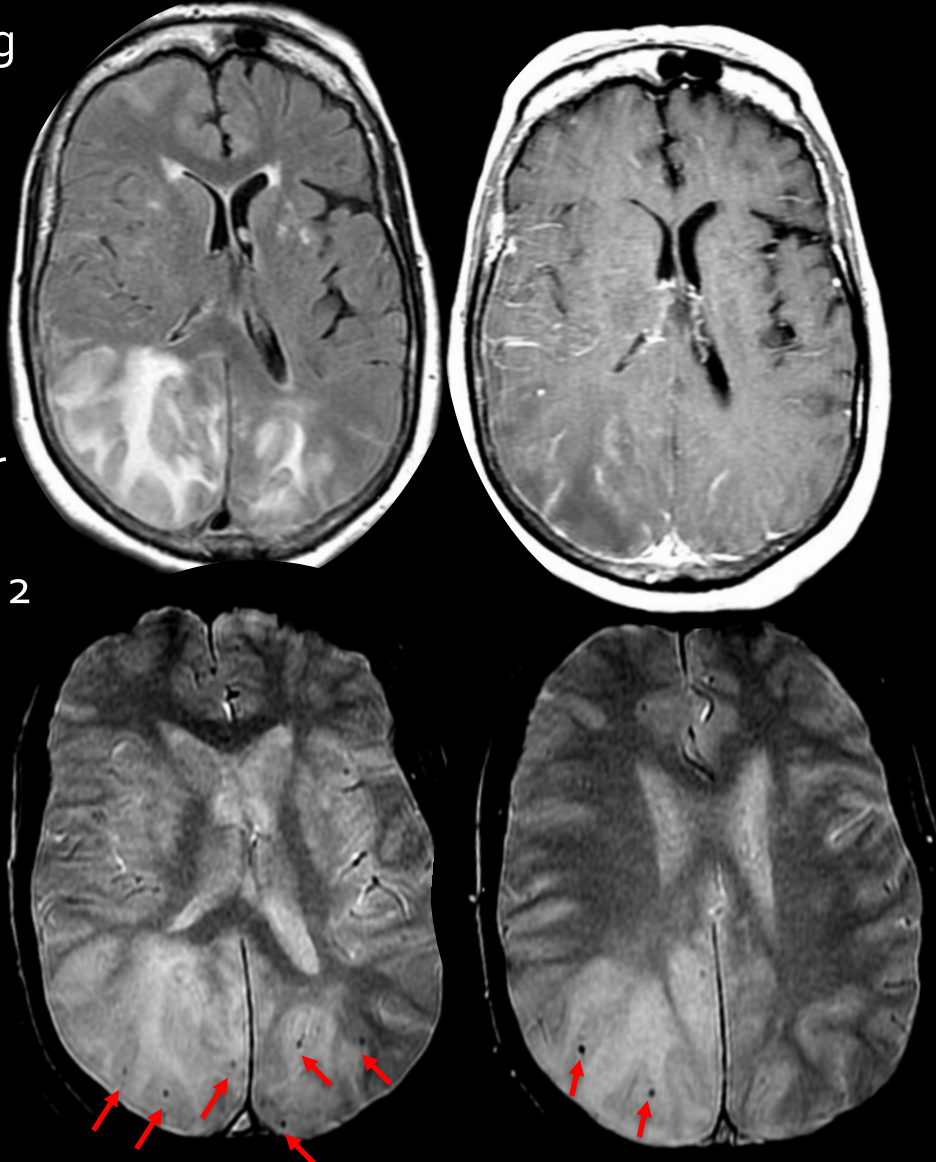
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Case #5 Diagnostic Checklist

- Elderly female
- Sudden onset neurological decline
 - gait
 - cognition
 - dizziness and headaches
- Imaging:
 - multifocal brain edema/swelling
 - sulcal contrast enhancement
 - parenchymal microhemorrhages
- PMHx: AD post second infusion Donanemab

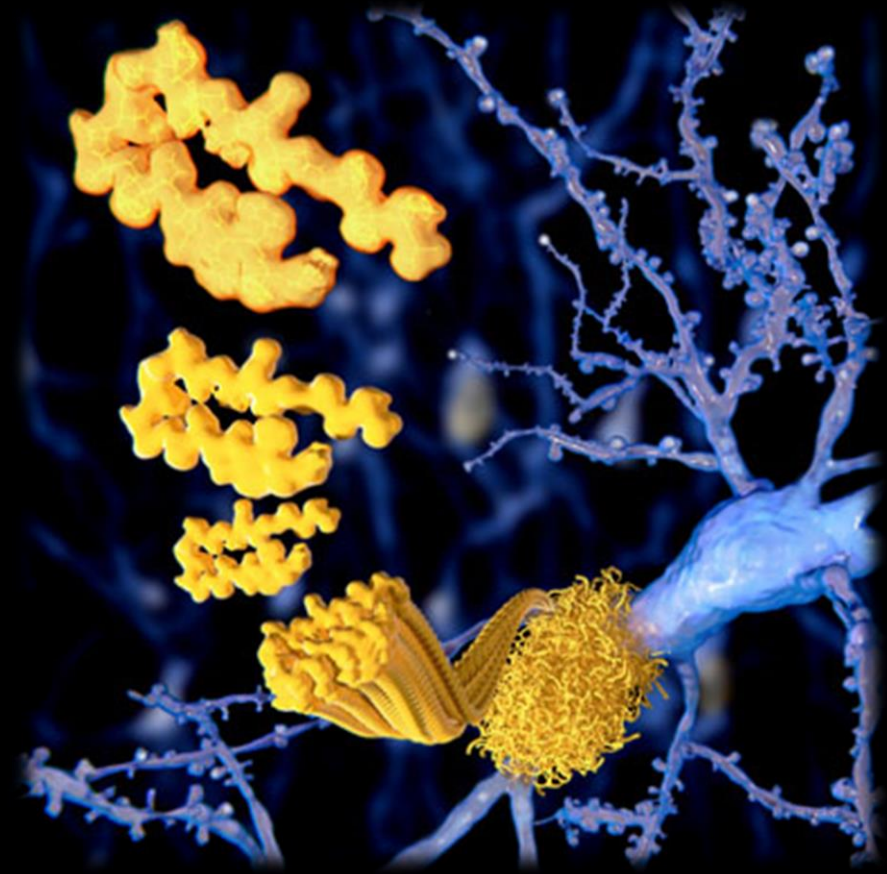
Amyloid-Related Imaging Abnormalities (ARIA)

Amyloid-Related Imaging Abnormalities

- Imaging findings during AD treatment
- Novel amyloid lowering monoclonal antibodies
 - lecanemab, donanemab, aducanumab
- Usually incidental, but occasionally symptomatic
 - cerebral edema and irritation
 - headaches, vomiting, confusion, gait abnormalities

Mechanism and Pathology

- not completely understood
- breakdown of BBB due to successful mobilization of vascular amyloid deposition
- Risk Factors:
 - drug dosing
 - number of APOE ϵ 4 alleles
 - use of antithrombotic agents



Amyloid-Related Imaging Abnormalities

ARIA-E (edema/effusions):

- **Parenchymal edema:**

- high T2-FLAIR signal in subcortical white matter and cortex
- no restricted diffusion
- subtle leptomeningeal enhancement

- **Sulcal effusions**

- high FLAIR signal (non-attenuating) in sulci often overlying an area of parenchymal edema



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ARIA-H (hemorrhage):

- parenchymal microhemorrhages (most common)
- sulcal hemorrhage (superficial siderosis)



Amyloid-Related Imaging Abnormalities

ARIA-E (edema/effusions):

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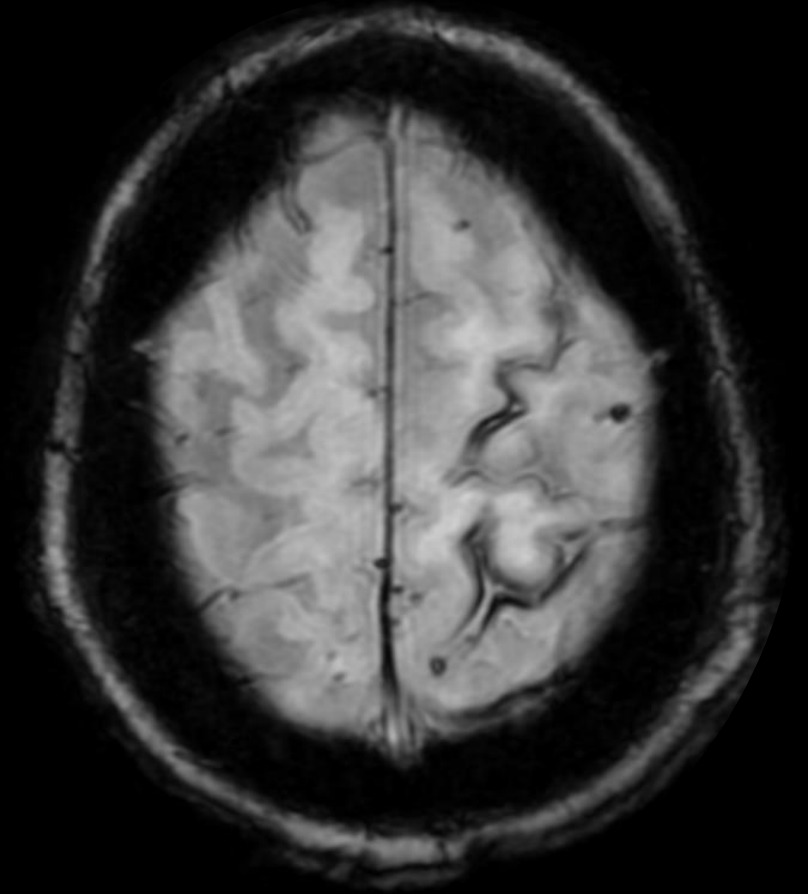
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ARIA-H (hemorrhage):

- parenchymal microhemorrhages (most common)
- sulcal hemorrhage (superficial siderosis)



Amyloid-Related Imaging Abnormalities

Table 2: ARIA Grading Criteria

ARIA Type	Mild	Moderate	Severe
ARIA-E	FLAIR hyperintensity confined to sulcus and cortex/subcortical white matter in one location <5 cm	FLAIR hyperintensity 5–10 cm, or more than one site of involvement each measuring <10 cm	FLAIR hyperintensity >10 cm, often with sulcal involvement, may involve one or more sites
ARIA-H microhemorrhage	Four or more new microhemorrhages	Five to nine new microhemorrhages	10 or more new microhemorrhages
ARIA-H superficial siderosis	One focal area of superficial siderosis	Two focal areas of superficial siderosis	More than two focal areas of superficial siderosis

Amyloid-Related Imaging Abnormalities

Table 3: Management of ARIA-E

Clinical Severity of ARIA-E	ARIA-E Severity at MRI		
	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Asymptomatic	Continue dosing at current dose and schedule	Suspend dosing; once imaging findings resolve, resume dose	Suspend dosing; once imaging findings resolve, resume dose
Mild, moderate, severe, serious ("other medically important event" only)	Suspend dosing; once ARIA-E resolves, same dose treatment can resume	Suspend dosing; once ARIA-E resolves, same dose treatment can resume	Suspend dosing; once ARIA-E resolves, same dose treatment can resume
Serious, except for "other medically important event"	Discontinue dosing	Discontinue dosing	Discontinue dosing

Source.—Reference 48.

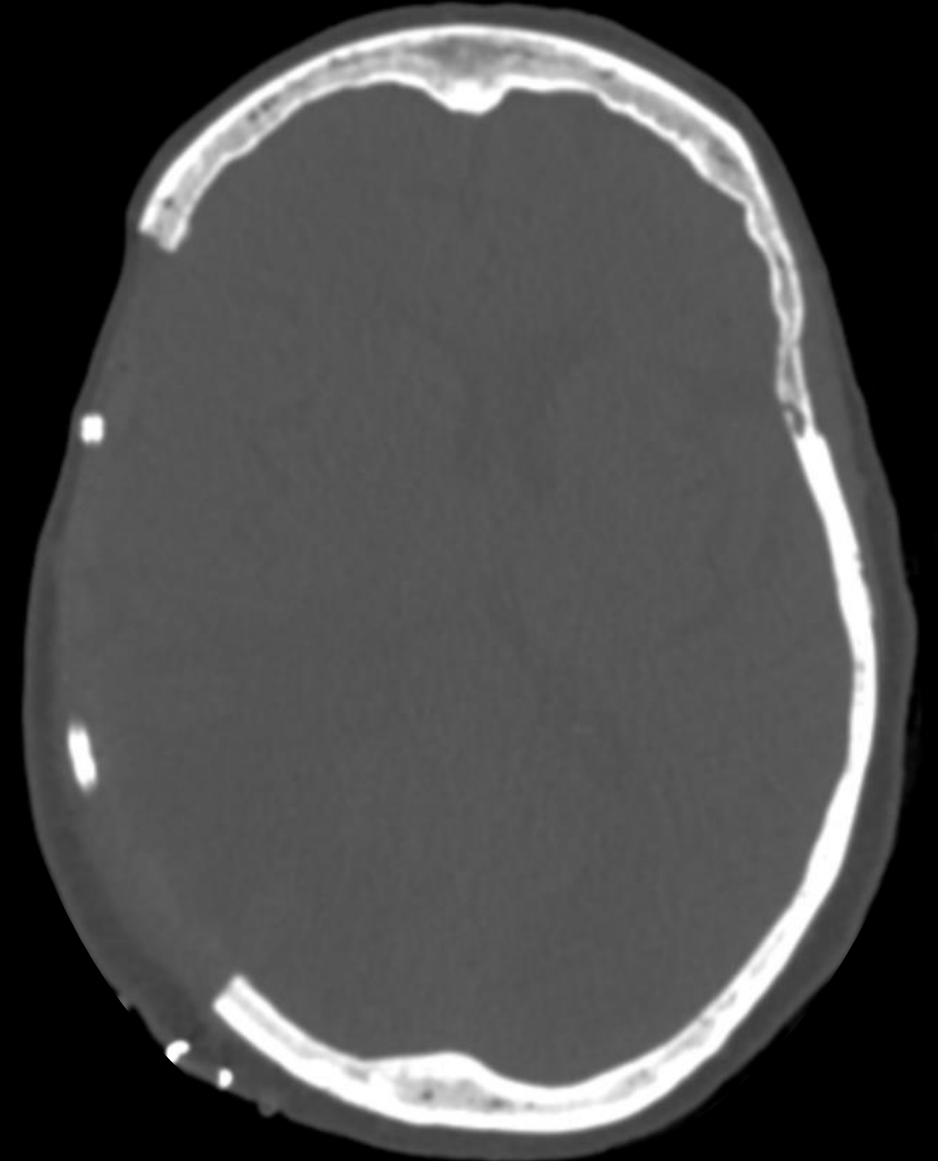
Table 4: Management of ARIA-H

Clinical Severity of ARIA-H	ARIA-H Severity at MRI		
	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Asymptomatic	Continue dosing at current dose and schedule	Suspend dosing; once imaging findings resolve, resume dose	Discontinue
Mild, moderate, severe, serious ("other medically important event" only)	Suspend dosing; once ARIA-H resolves, same dose treatment can resume	Suspend dosing; once ARIA-H resolves, same dose treatment can resume	Suspend dosing; once ARIA-H resolves, same dose treatment can resume
Serious, except for "other medically important event"	Discontinue dosing	Discontinue dosing	Discontinue dosing

Source.—Reference 48.

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Take Home Points

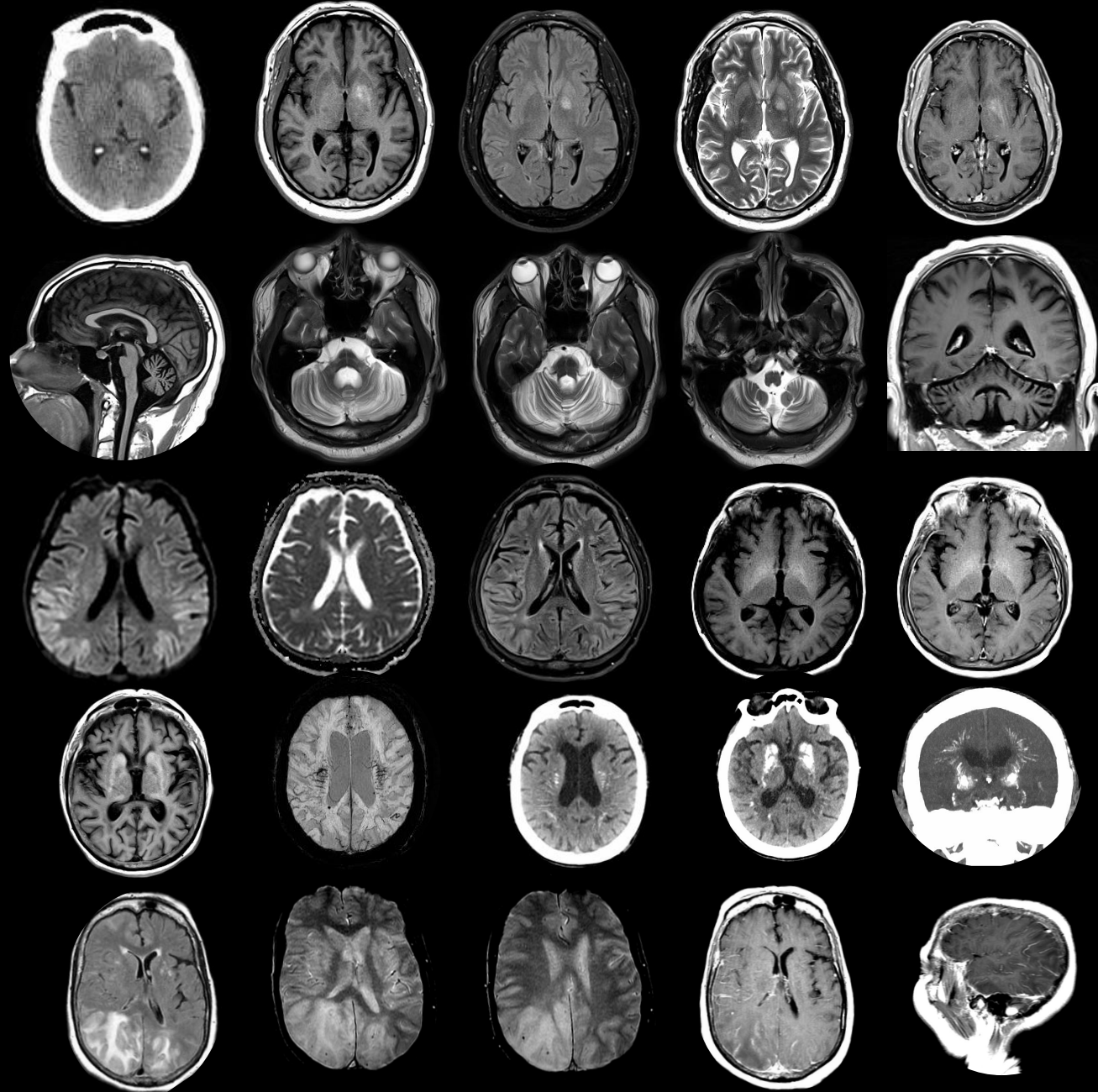
Non-Ketotic Hyperglycemic
Hemichorea

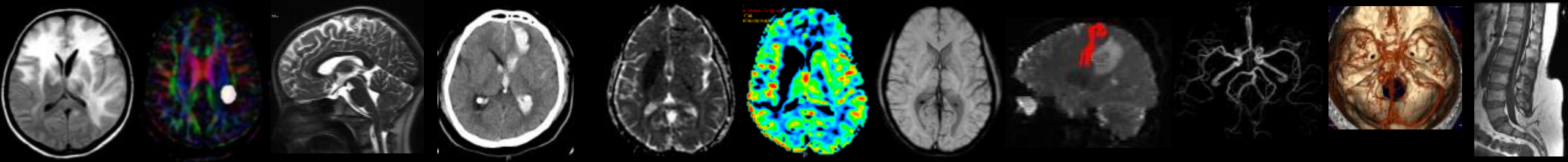
Multiple System Atrophy - Cerebellar

Acute Hyperammonemic
Encephalopathy

Autoimmune GFAP Astrocytopathy

Amyloid Related Imaging
Abnormalities





Thank you for participating !



Marco C Pinho
Associate Professor in Radiology
UTSW Medical Center and Parkland Hospital & Health System

Brain Summit 2025
October 25 – Dallas, Texas

UT Southwestern
O'Donnell Brain Institute

UT Southwestern
Medical Center