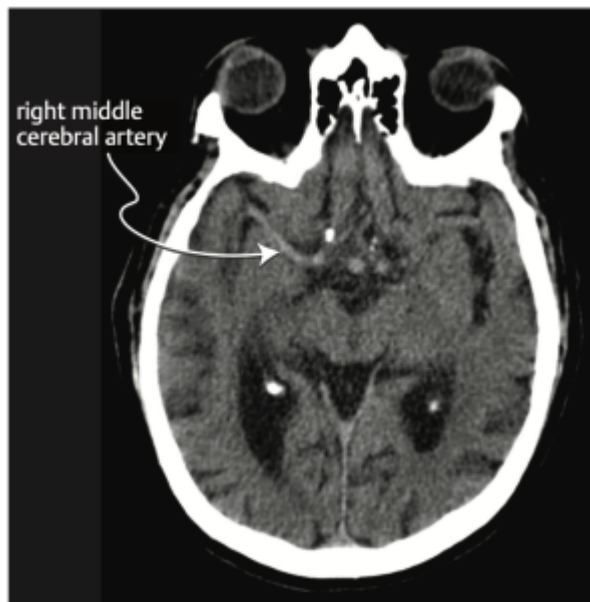


Hyperdense artery sign

First described in the MCA in 1983¹⁾. The cerebral vessel (usually the MCA) appears as high density on unenhanced CT



indicating intra-arterial clot (thrombus or embolus)²⁾. Seen in 12% of 50 patients scanned within 24 hrs of stroke, and 34% of 23 very early CTs did to R/O hemorrhage. Sensitivity for MCA occlusion is low, but specificity is high (although it may also be seen with carotid dissection, or (usually bilaterally) with calcific atherosclerosis or high hematocrit³⁾. Does not have independent prognostic significance.⁴⁾

¹⁾
Gacs G, Fox AJ, Barnett HJM, et al. CT Visualization of Intracranial Thromboembolism. Stroke. 1983; 14:756-762

²⁾ ³⁾
Tomsick TA, Brott TG, Olinger CP, et al. Hyperdense Middle Cerebral Artery: Incidence and Quantitative Significance. Neuroradiology. 1989; 31:312-315

⁴⁾
Manelfe C, Larrue V, von Kummer R, et al. Association of Hyperdense Middle Cerebral Artery Sign With Clinical Outcome in Patients Treated With Plasminogen Activator. Stroke. 1999; 30: 769-772

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