

Reversible cerebral vasoconstrictive syndrome

Reversible cerebral vasoconstrictive syndrome (RCVS) (AKA benign cerebral angiopathy or vasculitis):

severe H/A with paroxysmal onset, \pm neurologic deficit, and string of beads appearance on angiography of cerebral vessels that usually clears in 1-3 months. > 50% report prior use of vasoconstrictive substances (cocaine, marijuana, nasal decongestants, ergot derivatives, SSRIs, [interferon](#), nicotine patches) sometimes combined with binge drinking. May also occur post-partum.

Complications occurred in 24% including:

- a) usually during the 1st week: SAH, ICH, seizures, RPLS
- b) usually during the 2nd week: ischemic events (TIA, stroke)

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