NEUROLOGICAL PICTURE

Arachnoid cyst of the middle crania fossa, disclosed by bleeding

A 47 year old woman was admitted with severe left sided headache lasting one month after mild head trauma. Brain CT and MRI (figure) showed bleeding into an arachnoid cyst of the middle fossa with an associated subdural haematoma. Headache spontaneously disappeared with blood resorption. Blood in the cyst made it isodense with cerebral parenchyma making the initial diagnosis more difficult.

(A) Initial CT. Isodense extracerebral lesion compressing the left temporal and frontal lobes (arrowhead). Midline shift to the right. (B) (1) Sagittal T1 weighted, (2) axial, and (3) coronal T2 weighted MRI. Increased signal intensity of the left middle cranial fossa consistent with intracystic haemorrhage with an associated subdural haematoma. (C) CT two months later. The arachnoid cyst is now clearly visualised.

A DE RECONDO

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