NEUROLOGICAL PICTURE

Status epilepticus due to a ruptured dermoid cyst

A 51 year old man with a negative neurological history presented to the accident and emergency department with a generalised tonic clonic seizure. Further fits occurred with the patient not regaining consciousness. Brain CT showed a partially calcified right frontal tumour containing fat. Free intraventricular and subarachnoid fat suggested rupture of a dermoid cyst.

(A) Supine CT showing subfrontal tumour; (B) Supine CT showing fat in the right frontal horn and a fat/CSF fluid level in the left frontal horn; (C) Prone CT showing fat/CSF fluid levels in both occipital horns and fixed fat in the right frontal horn; (D) Supine T1 weighted parasagittal MRI showing fixed fat in the right frontal horn. Note the fat in the velum interpositum and superior cerebellar cistern (arrows).

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