Small medullary infarction presenting as painful trigeminal sensory neuropathy

Focal medullary infarction was identified by T2 weighted brain MRI in a 70 year old woman presenting with isolated orofacial pain in the absence of other neurological deficits. The pain and sensory deficit resolved in eight weeks.

Isolated orofacial pain and sensory deficit only rarely results from brain stem vascular lesions, either haemorrhagic or ischaemic,1,2 and focal medullary infarction has never been described presenting as painful trigeminal sensory neuropathy.

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