Lipoma of the corpus callosum

Muna AlJallaf,1 Salwa AlJanahi,2 Tarik AlJanabi3

1Emergency Medicine Department, Dubai Health Authority, United Arab Emirates
2Emergency Medicine Department, Dubai Health Authority, United Arab Emirates
3Emergency Medicine Department, Ministry of Presidential Affairs, Um AlQuwain, United Arab Emirates

Correspondence to Dr Muna AlJallaf, muna_aljallaf@hotmail.com

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DESCRIPTION

A 38-year-old male driver was involved in a road traffic accident. He was brought to the emergency department after a high-speed frontal impact against a concrete wall. He could not remember what had led to the accident. He was treated according to the Acute Trauma Life Support (ATLS) guidelines. He was fully conscious, alert and orientated with a Glasgow Coma Scale score of 15/15 with equal and reactive pupils. His blood sugar was normal. He was found to have minor orthopaedic injuries in the distal limbs.

Owing to the fact that the patient had transient amnesia that could not be explained, a brain CT was ordered, which showed an extensive lipoma of the corpus callosum (figures 1–4). This was interpreted as the cause of a possible epileptic fit that resulted in a transient loss of consciousness, which subsequently led to his accident. The patient was discharged home on anti-epileptics without surgery.
Intracranial lipomas represent rare congenital malformations, accounting for less than 1% of intracranial tumours. They are thought to originate from abnormal differentiation of the meninx primitive, a mesenchymal derivative of the neural crest. More than one half of intracranial lipomas are associated with varying degrees of brain malformations. Associated anomalies include agenesis of surrounding tissues, frontal bone defects or facial dysplasia and cerebral vascular defects.

Intracranial lipomas may present with symptoms such as headache, seizures, local mass effect or may be diagnosed incidentally during evaluation following trauma. CT imaging of lipomas shows the hypo attenuation characteristic of fat. MRI reveals a homogeneous T1 hyperintensity and T2 hypointensity/isointensity.

The prognosis of intracranial lipomas is generally good, especially for pure corpus callosum lesions. Surgical intervention is limited depending on the patient’s symptoms, surgical feasibility and associated malformation.

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REFERENCES