

Brainstem Infarction and Vertebral Artery Vasculopathy After Ramsay Hunt Syndrome

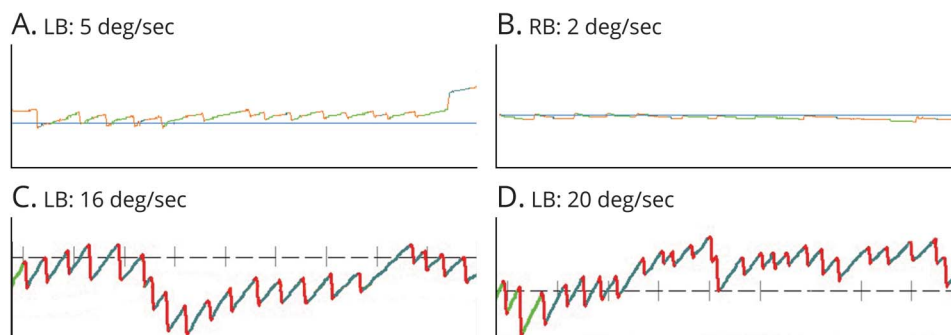
Huiying Sun, MD,* Hui You, MD,* and Haiyan Wu, MD

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Correspondence

Dr. Wu
ywjwhy@sina.com

Figure 1 Nystagmus at the Initial Visit



(A) Leftward nystagmus when gazing left. (B) Rightward nystagmus when gazing right. (C) Leftward nystagmus after shaking the head. (D) Enhanced leftward head-shaking nystagmus when tilting the head forward. LB = left beat; RB = right beat.

A 45-year-old man presented with right auricle rash, facial weakness, otalgia, deafness, and transient dizzy spells. He had leftward spontaneous, bidirectional gaze-evoked and unsuppressed leftward head-shaking nystagmus in head-shaking tilt suppression test (Figure 1). MRI results showed a subacute infarct on the right dorsolateral pons and medulla oblongata and incomplete flow void in the right vertebral artery. After acyclovir and dexamethasone therapy, the ischemic lesion and vascular narrowing on MRI vanished and the patient's symptoms disappeared (Figure 2). Concomitant intracranial vasculopathy and brainstem stroke may occur in Ramsay Hunt syndrome,^{1,2} which could be easily missed but possibly detected by careful eye movement assessments.

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Disclosure

The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org/N for full disclosures.

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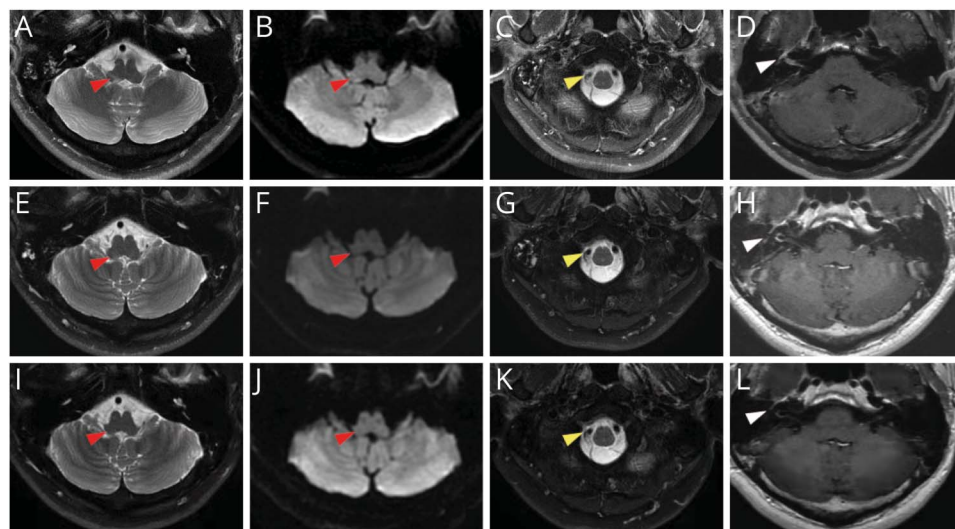
*These authors contributed equally to this work.

From the Departments of Otorhinolaryngology (H.S., H.W.) and Radiology (H.Y.), Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China.

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Figure 2 Head MRI



(A) Patchy shadow on right dorsolateral pons and medulla oblongata. (B) Hyperintense signal on diffusion-weighted imaging. (C) Incomplete flow void in right vertebral artery. (D) Enhanced facial nerve. (E-H) Lesions improved at 6-week follow-up. (I-L) Lesions disappeared at 1.5-year follow-up.

Appendix Authors

Name	Location	Contribution
Huiying Sun, MD	Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China	Drafting/revision of the manuscript for content, including medical writing for content
Hui You, MD	Department of Radiology, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China	Major role in the acquisition of data

Appendix (continued)

Name	Location	Contribution
Haiyan Wu, MD	Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China	Study concept or design

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