Intracranial Carotid Occlusion in Brain Death
(Neuroimage)

A 20 year old male was brought to the emergency in a deeply unconscious stage, decerebrating with a GCS of 3 and right pupil dilated. A few hours earlier, he had developed severe headache for the first time. CT showed large multiple areas of hemorrhage with isodense areas within, in the right temporoparietal region (Fig. 1). As parents insisted on further management, a selective right internal carotid angio was planned. As the right common carotid was being entered, both pupils dilated. Injection in the right common carotid artery revealed a carotid stop with no dye entering the intracranial region beyond the base of the skull (Fig. 2). The external carotid vessels were clearly visualized. By this time, the patient had all clinical features suggestive of brain death. Failure of blood to enter the intracranial circulation when intracranial pressure exceeds systemic arterial blood pressure, though described\(^1\),\(^2\) has rarely been demonstrated.

References


Fig. 1: CT showing acute ICH.

Fig. 2: Common carotid injection with no intracranial circulation.

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