

“Transient hemorrhagic attacks”: transient neurological symptoms due to cortical or subcortical brain hemorrhage. Case reports and literature review.

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Transient focal neurological symptoms of short duration are usually due to transient ischemic attacks (TIA), less frequently to epileptic fits or migraine aura. However, recent reports have underlined the possibility that transient symptoms of duration less than 24 hours may be due to cortical hemorrhage. The mechanism by which a hemorrhage causes transient symptoms may include epileptic seizures and cortical spreading depression. We report two cases with transient neurologic symptoms in whom emergent CT scan revealed a brain hemorrhage to be the cause. One of this adds to the store of reported cases of TIA-like symptoms due to small cortical hemorrhage. In the other one, the symptoms lasted about 18 hours and were due to a large subcortical hemorrhage. In the former case, we believe that cortical spreading depression more than epileptic seizures was the cause of the transient symptoms. To the best of our knowledge, no cases like the latter one have yet been reported in the literature. As a possible explanation, we hypothesize that extravasation of the blood into the ventricles may have reduced the pressure by the blood onto the pyramidal tract, thus causing reversibility of the initial motor symptoms.

Fig 1: subcortical hemorrhage in different cortical sulci, first clinical case: the patient presented repeated episodes of episodes of transient weakness and hypoesthesia at the right arm lasting about half an hour. Two episodes were accompanied by paresthesias of the right cheek and a very slight deviation of the oral rim

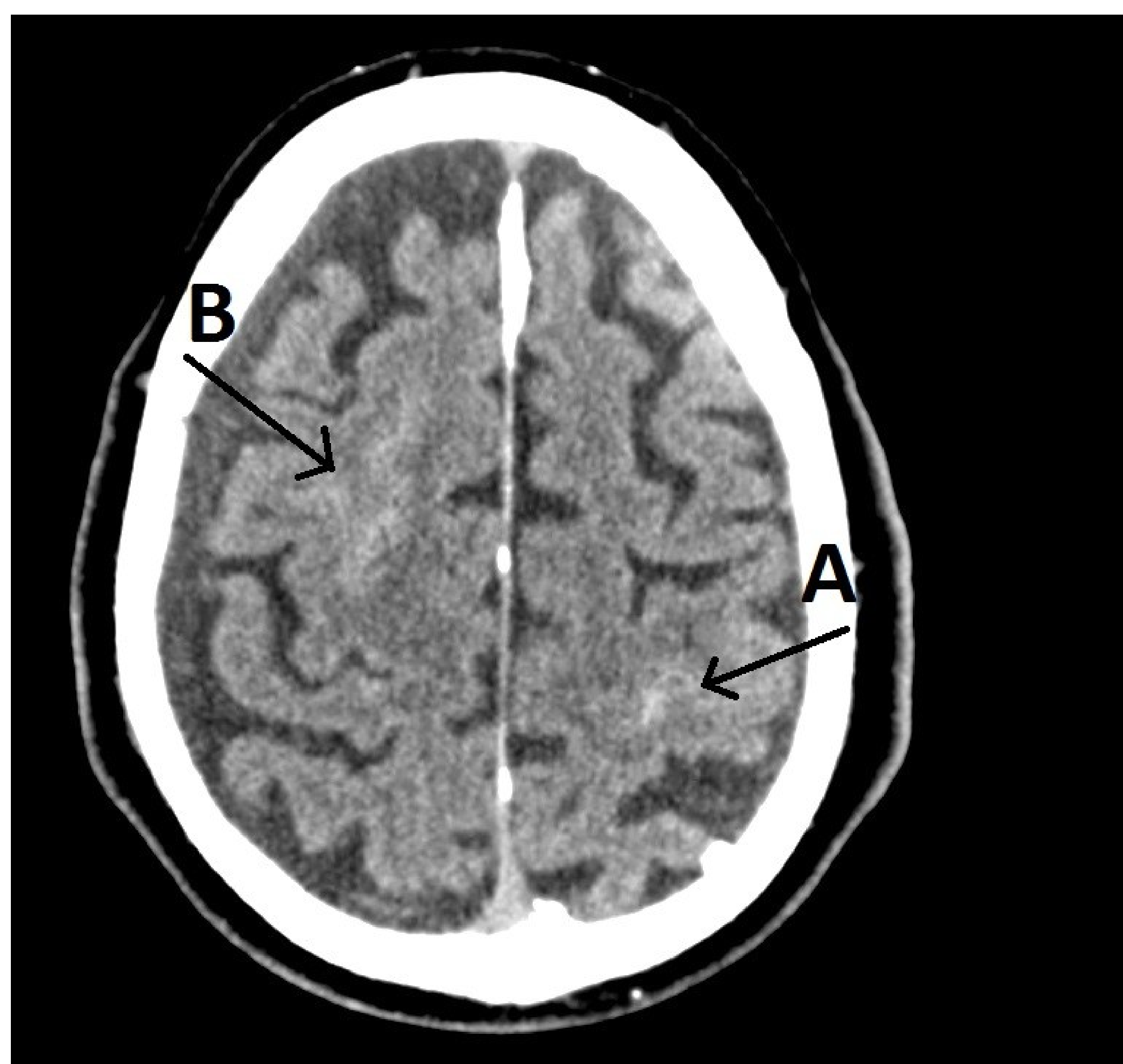
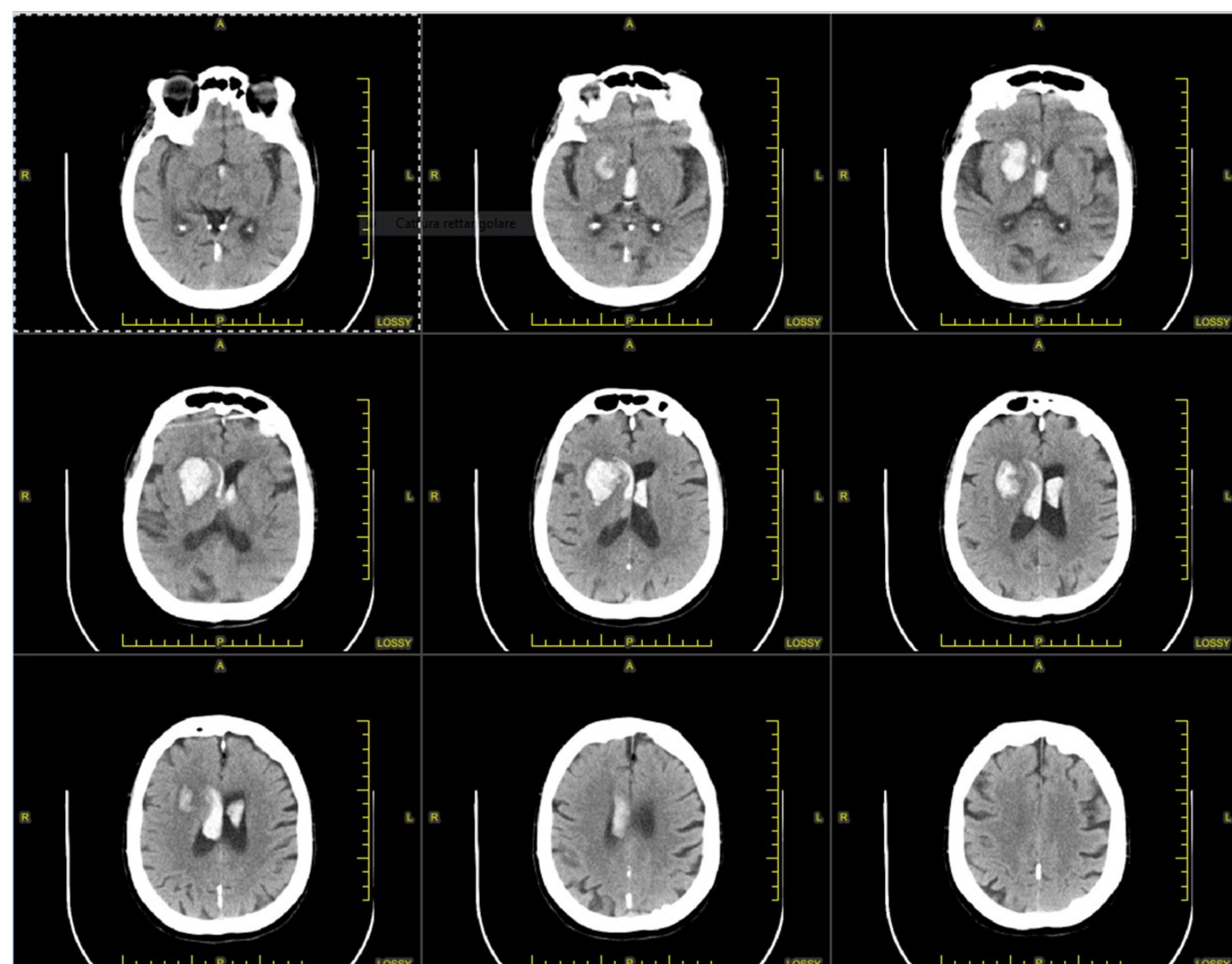


Fig. 2: clinical case 2 a 75 years old woman was found confused, with left hemiparesis and unable to raise from the ground where it had fallen; the neurologic examination showed left hemiplegia with head and gaze deviated to the right, left Babinsk's sign, left hemianopia All symptoms disappeared spontaneously after about 12-18 hours from their onset. At this time, the neurologic examination was unremarkable.



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