

A 20-Year-Old Male With Episodic Ataxia and Dysarthria

Teaching Video Neurolimages

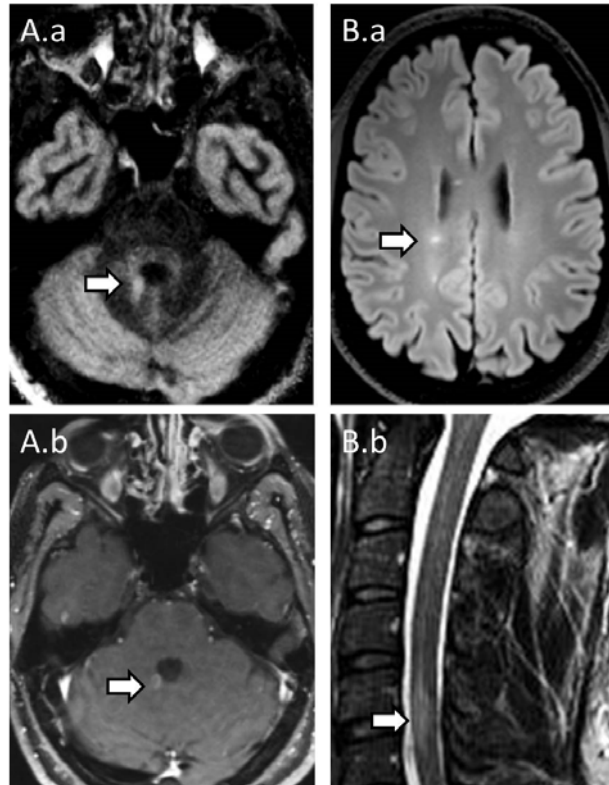
Neurology[®]

Resident & Fellow Section

Vignette

- A 20-year-old man first presented with vertigo followed by hourly episodes of dysarthria and incoordination lasting 5-20 seconds (video). Neurologic examination was normal between episodes.
- The only brain/spine MRI lesion was in the right superior cerebellar peduncle (Figure, A). Cerebrospinal fluid analysis revealed elevated white blood cells (6/ μ L [normal, 0-5]) and oligoclonal bands (≥ 4).

Imaging



Video



Paroxysmal Dysarthria-Ataxia in Multiple Sclerosis

- Paroxysmal dysarthria-ataxia associated with CNS demyelination was diagnosed and oral acetazolamide 250 mg twice-daily resolved episodes without recurrence. Subsequent MRI brain (Figure, B) confirmed multiple sclerosis (MS).
- It arises from ephaptic transmission within midbrain or cerebellar MS lesions and additionally responds to carbamazepine.¹ It should be distinguished from genetic or contactin-associated-protein-like-2[CASPR2]-IgG-associated episodic ataxia.²