

Massive cerebral arterial air embolism and hemorrhagic stroke

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This 21-year-old woman had a renal transplant and was on immunosuppressive therapy. A surgical allograft was removed 7 months later, confirming invasive urothelial carcinoma with pulmonary metastases. A chest computer tomography (CT) revealed random nodules, and mediastinal lymph nodes. She was readmitted with dyspnea and hemoptysis, requiring artificial ventilation. Despite initial improvement, the patient became confused and lost



FIG. 1.

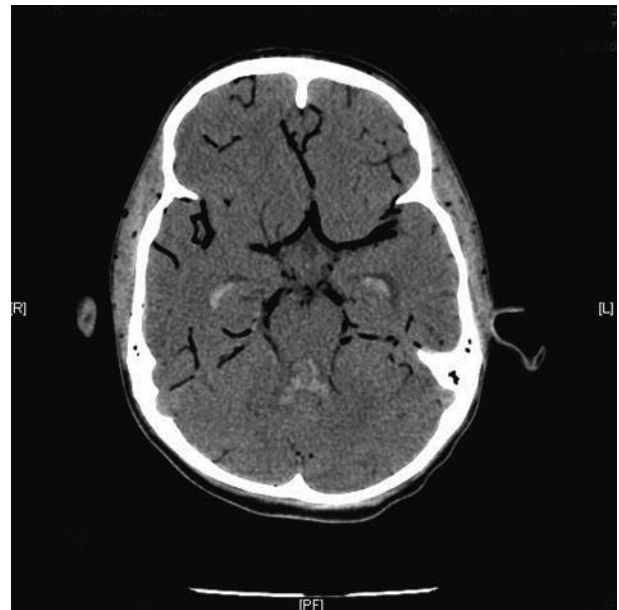


FIG. 2.

consciousness. CT scan showed massive cerebral arterial air embolism and hemorrhagic strokes (Fig. 1, 2). The combination of the invasive mass effect of the tumor and the positive pressure ventilation may have favoured arterio-bronchial fistulae in this patient. The patient went into cardiac arrest and died.

REFERENCES

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