Teaching Video NeuroImage: Foix–Chavany–Marie syndrome

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A 79-year-old woman with a history of prior right frontal infarction presented with sudden inability to speak (figure, A). Examination revealed anarthria, yet intact comprehension, writing, and limb function (video). Voluntary tongue, swallowing, and mouth movements were absent, while cough and swallow reflexes were preserved (video). An acute left hemispheric ischemic stroke causing Foix-Chavany-Marie syndrome (FCMS) was diagnosed, and IV recombinant tissue plasminogen activator was administered. Left frontal infarction was confirmed on MRI (figure, B).

FCMS involves lesions of the bilateral frontal operculum1 or the cortical-subcortical areas of primary motor cortex.2 Voluntary control of facio-pharyngo-glosso-masticatory muscles is lost, while reflex movements and limb strength are preserved.

REFERENCES

Figure
(A) CT scan without contrast showing area of old right-sided infarct encompassing the frontoparietal opercular cortex; (B) diffusion-weighted MRI with restricted diffusion in the left precentral gyrus

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