A 65-year-old woman presented with acute tetraparesis. Neurologic examination showed severe leg paresis and mild proximal arm weakness, bilateral extensor plantar responses, hyperreflexia, and abulia. Brain MRI showed bilateral anterior cerebral artery (ACA) territory infarctions (figure). On evaluation, she had patent foramen ovale, deep venous thrombosis, and bilateral moderate carotid artery disease. Bilateral ACA infarctions occur with simultaneous cardiac emboli to both ACAs or by a single azygous ACA supplying both hemispheres, and can result in acute paraparesis or tetraparesis and neuropsychological alterations due to frontal lobe damage.\(^1\),\(^2\)

Although paraparesis and tetraparesis may initially suggest spinal cord involvement, bilateral frontal processes should be considered.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The authors thank Professor Didier Leys for critically reading the manuscript and for suggestions.

**REFERENCES**

Teaching NeuroImages: Acute tetraparesis: Mind the brain
Neurology 2009;73:e58
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e3181b8792d

This information is current as of September 21, 2009

Updated Information & Services
including high resolution figures, can be found at:
http://www.neurology.org/content/73/12/e58.full.html

References
This article cites 2 articles, 2 of which you can access for free at:
http://www.neurology.org/content/73/12/e58.full.html##ref-list-1

Subspecialty Collections
This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s):
All Cerebrovascular disease/Stroke
http://www.neurology.org/cgi/collection/all_cerebrovascular_disease_stroke
Infarction
http://www.neurology.org/cgi/collection/infarction
MRI
http://www.neurology.org/cgi/collection/mri

Permissions & Licensing
Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:
http://www.neurology.org/misc/about.xhtml#permissions

Reprints
Information about ordering reprints can be found online:
http://www.neurology.org/misc/addir.xhtml#reprintsus