An 83-year-old woman presented with acute aphasia. Brain MRI, performed 3 hours after symptom onset, showed isolated fluid-attenuated inversion recovery vascular hyperintensities (FVH) in the left middle cerebral artery, including dot-like and serpentine hyperintensities (figure). Immediately after this first MRI (i.e., 3 hours and 15 minutes after symptom onset), aphasia resolved. A second MRI performed 15 minutes later showed FVH disappearance.

Only 20% of TIA patients showed FVH when MRI was performed within 24 hours.1 Because FVH in this case were transient and correlated with symptom resolution, the prior report may have underestimated the true frequency of their occurrence.

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