Teaching NeuroImages: Fahr syndrome caused by hypoparathyroidism

A 57-year-old woman with a remote history of thyroidectomy but no prior neurologic symptoms developed seizures, fever, and coma. Limited evaluation at her local hospital in rural Haiti demonstrated serum hypocalcemia (4 mg/dL) and extensive bilateral subcortical calcification in the cerebral and cerebellar hemispheres on CT (figure). This pattern of calcification can occur in inherited conditions such as familial idiopathic basal ganglia calcification (Fahr disease) and acquired conditions (referred to as Fahr syndrome) including parathyroid dysfunction and intrauterine infection.1,2

Given our patient’s severe hypocalcemia, Fahr syndrome was attributed to presumed hypoparathyroidism related to prior thyroidectomy in her case.

STUDY FUNDING
No targeted funding reported.

DISCLOSURE
E. Dade, V. Saint-Joy, and N. Haynes report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. A. Berkowitz reports no disclosures relevant to the manuscript, but receives royalties from Clinical Neurology and Neuroanatomy: A Localization-Based Approach (McGraw-Hill), Clinical Pathophysiology Made Ridiculously Simple (Medmaster, Inc.), and The Improvising Mind (Oxford University Press). Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

REFERENCES
Teaching NeuroImages: Fahr syndrome caused by hypoparathyroidism
Neurology 2017;88:e233
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000004014

This information is current as of June 5, 2017

Updated Information & Services
including high resolution figures, can be found at:
http://www.neurology.org/content/88/23/e233.full.html

Supplementary Material
Supplementary material can be found at:
http://www.neurology.org/content/suppl/2017/06/05/WNL.0000000000004014.DC1

References
This article cites 2 articles, 0 of which you can access for free at:
http://www.neurology.org/content/88/23/e233.full.html##ref-list-1

Subspecialty Collections
This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s):
All Clinical Neurology
http://www.neurology.org/cgi/collection/all_clinical_neurology
Basal ganglia
http://www.neurology.org/cgi/collection/basal_ganglia
CT
http://www.neurology.org/cgi/collection/ct
Endocrine
http://www.neurology.org/cgi/collection/endocrine

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