PHOTO QUIZ

A 49-year-old woman presenting with aphasia

D. van Casteren¹, K.S. Adriani¹,²,³*

¹Department of Neurology, Tergooiziekenhuizen, Blaricum and Hilversum, the Netherlands,
²Department of Neurology, Onze Lieve Vrouwe Gasthuis, Amsterdam, the Netherlands,
³Department of Viroscience, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands,
*K.S. Adriani worked in Tergooiziekenhuizen until October 2015 and currently works in the Onze Lieve Vrouwe Gasthuis,
corresponding author: tel.: +31 (0)20-5993551, fax: +31 (0)20-5993845, email: k.s.adriani@olvg.nl

CASE REPORT

A 49-year-old woman presented to the Emergency Department with aphasia; the time of onset was unknown. Her past medical history revealed a syphilis infection in 1987 and alcohol abuse. On neurological examination she spoke mainly non-existent words, her comprehension was relatively unaffected. Furthermore, there was a mild right-sided central facial palsy, right-sided hyperreflexia, and bilateral Babinski signs. Computed tomographic imaging of the brain showed a hypodense lesion in the left hemisphere. Magnetic resonance imaging of the brain revealed hyperintense, confluent grey matter and white matter lesions in the region of the left middle cerebral artery. Computed tomographic imaging of the brain showed a hypodense lesion in the left hemisphere. Magnetic resonance imaging of the brain revealed hyperintense, confluent grey matter and white matter lesions in the left hemisphere (figure 1). The lesions were isointense on T1 weighted images and enhanced after administration of gadolinium.

WHAT IS YOUR DIAGNOSIS?

See page 222 for the answer to this photo quiz.

Figure 1. MRI images of the brain
Panel A: Axial FLAIR image showing hyperintense, confluent grey matter and white matter lesions in the region of the left middle cerebral artery
Panel B: Axial diffusion weighted image showing diffusion restriction around the left middle cerebral artery
Panel C: T1 axial image after administration of gadolinium showing enhancement of the lesions
Panel D: Axial T1 image two months later showing a reduced degree of enhancement after administration of gadolinium