



## 2025 Intracranial Hypotension Conference

Amsterdam June 28-29

# Surgical ligation vs endovascular embolization vs percutaneous fibrin sealant (titanium vs rubber vs glue)

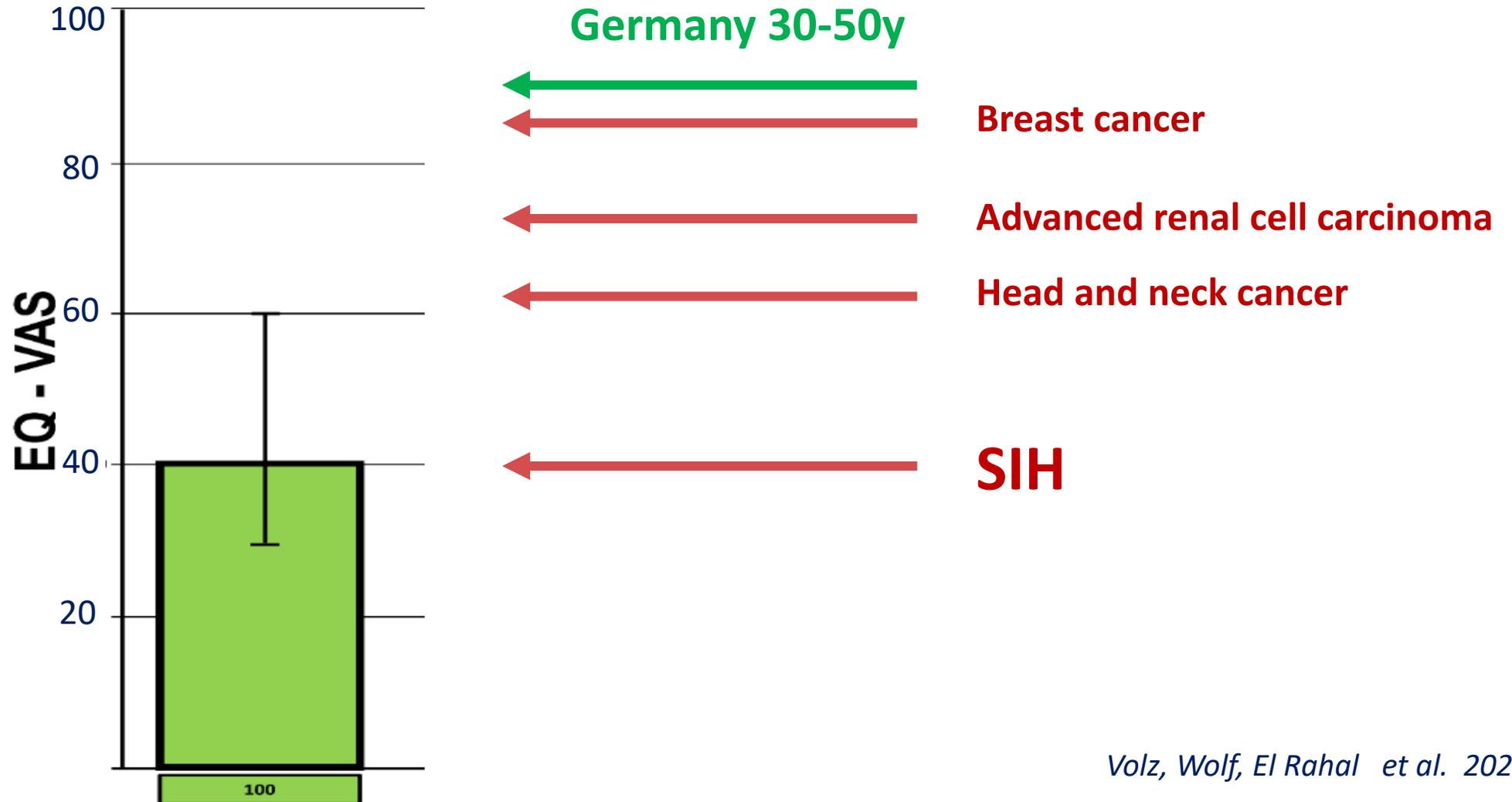
**Jürgen Beck**

Director Dept. of Neurosurgery

Medical Center – University of Freiburg, Germany

Chair CSF-Section - European Association of Neurosurgical Societies

# SIH – Quality of Life



# Nerve root clipping for spinal leaks - Return to work rate



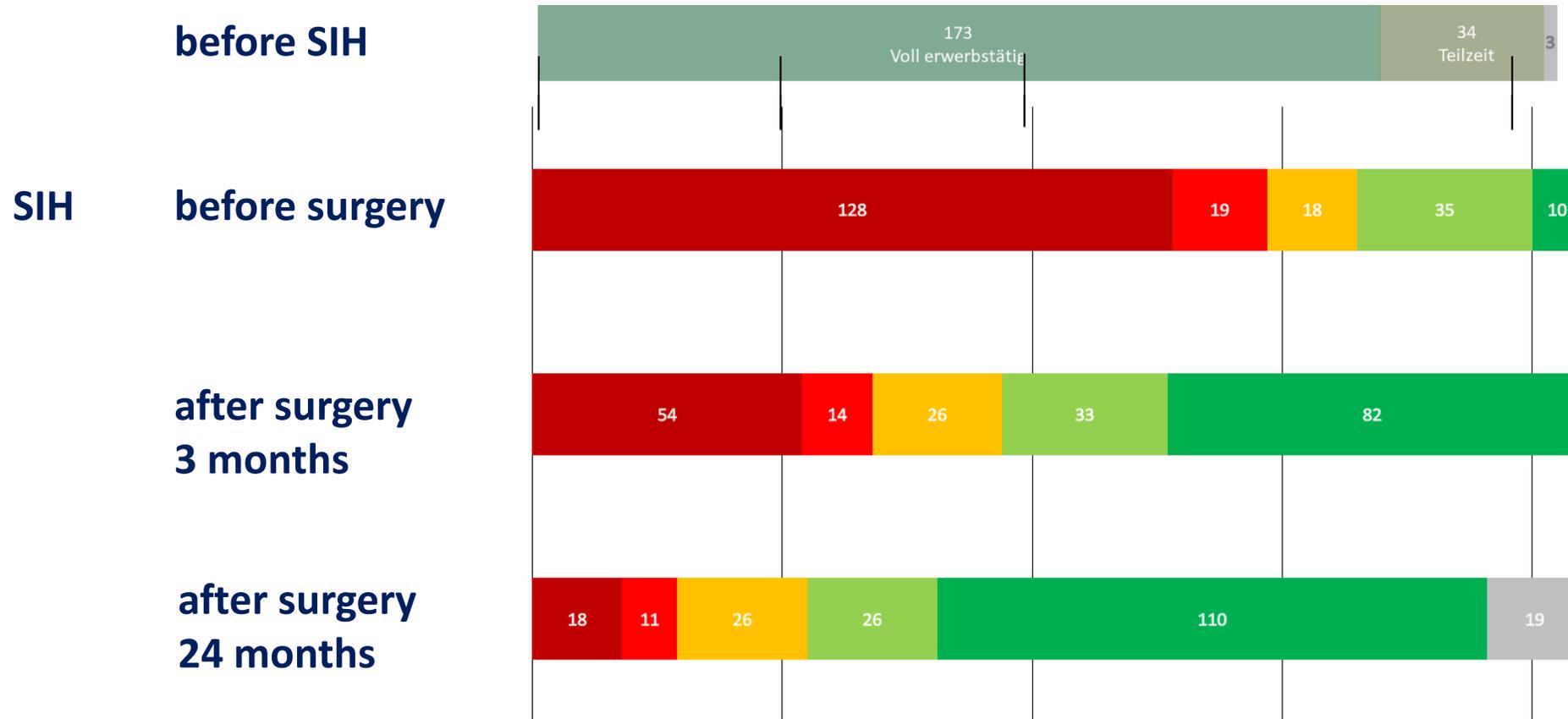
Pre op

100% Not able to work

Post op

80% Full employed

# SIH - return to work



N = 210 patients

median age 46 years

*Volz et al.  
in preparation*

# Surgery for SIH

## Headache

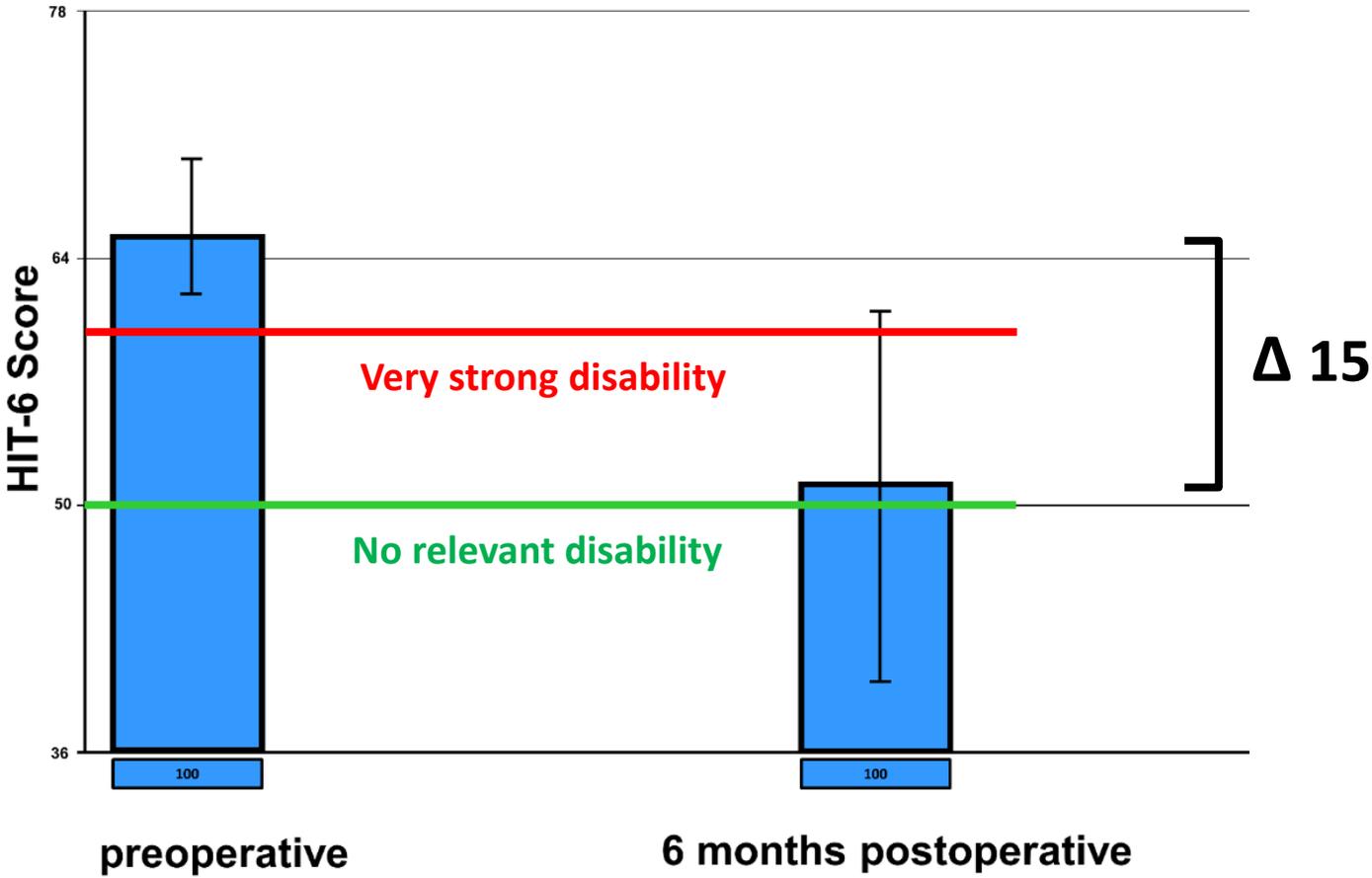
Home > Journal of Neurology > Article

### Don't delay, but don't despair: symptom duration, comorbidity and outcome after closure of spinal cerebrospinal fluid leaks

Original Communication | Open access | Published: 26 February 2024  
(2024) | Cite this article

[Download PDF](#) | You have full access to this open access article

Florian Volz, Amir El Rahal, Christian Fung, Mukesh Shah, Niklas Lützen, Horst Urbach, Jürgen Beck & Katharina Wolf

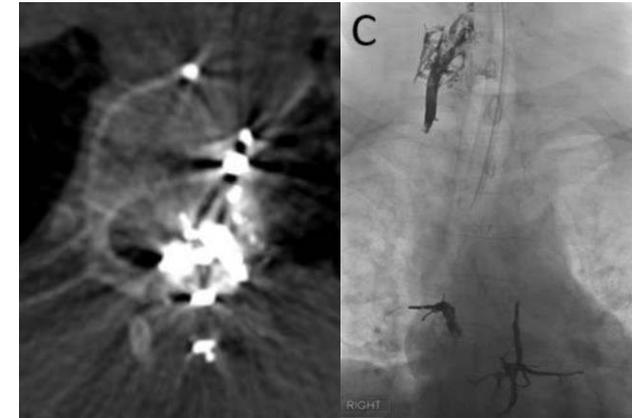


- Clinically relevant changes:**
- 2.3 for chronic daily headache**  
Coeytaux et al., J Clin Epidemiol 2014
  - 2.5 for migraine**  
Smelt et al., Cephalalgia 2014
  - 8 for tension-type headache**  
Castien et al., Cephalalgia 2012

Original research

## Clinical and imaging outcomes of 100 patients with cerebrospinal fluid-venous fistulas treated by transvenous embolization

Waleed Brinjikji <sup>1,2</sup>, Ajay Madhavan,<sup>1</sup> Ivan Garza,<sup>3</sup> Mark Whealy,<sup>3</sup> Narayan Kissoon,<sup>3</sup> Ian Mark <sup>1</sup>, Pearse P Morris,<sup>1</sup> Jared Verdoorn <sup>1</sup>, John Benson <sup>1</sup>, John L D Atkinson,<sup>2</sup> Hassan Kobeissi <sup>1</sup>, Jeremy K Cutsforth-Gregory <sup>3</sup>



**Complete improvement**

58

**Partial improvement**

37

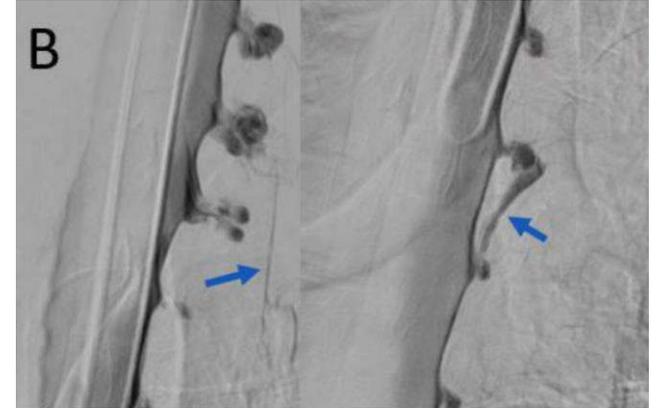
**No improvement**

5

Original research

## Clinical and imaging outcomes of 100 patients with cerebrospinal fluid-venous fistulas treated by transvenous embolization

Waleed Brinjikji <sup>1,2</sup>, Ajay Madhavan, <sup>1</sup> Ivan Garza, <sup>3</sup> Mark Whealy, <sup>3</sup> Narayan Kissoon, <sup>3</sup> Ian Mark, <sup>1</sup> Pearse P Morris, <sup>1</sup> Jared Verdoorn, <sup>1</sup> John Benson, <sup>1</sup> John L D Atkinson, <sup>2</sup> Hassan Kobeissi, <sup>1</sup> Jeremy K Cutsforth-Gregory <sup>3</sup>



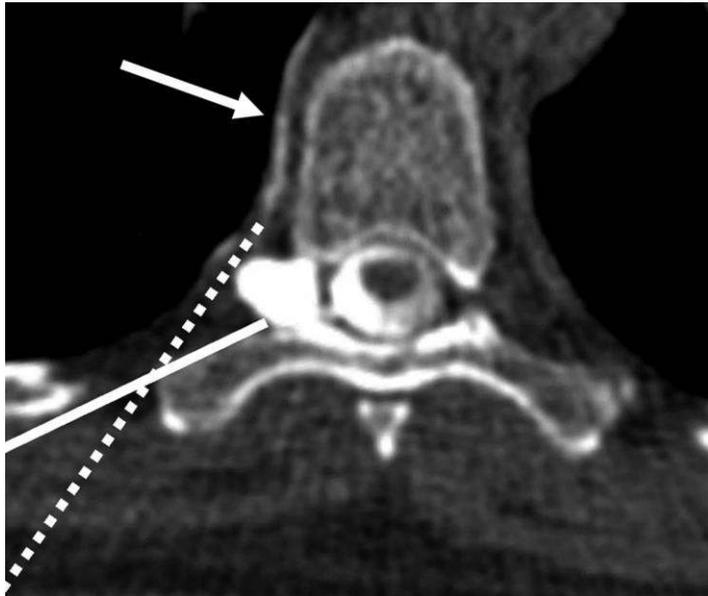
	Complete improvement	Partial improvement	No improvement	P value
N	58	37	5	–
Prior headache history				
None	48 (82.8)	23 (62.2)	2 (40.0)	0.0004
Pachymeningeal enhancement	48 (82.8)	31 (83.8)	0 (0.0)	<0.0001
VS engorgement	44 (75.9)	30 (81.1)	1 (20.0)	0.01
Pre-treatment Bern SIH score	5.9 (3.1)	6.2 (3.2)	2 (2.8)	0.04
Time from symptoms to embolization, months	32.0 (39.4)	49.2 (61.6)	82.6 (81.2)	0.04

Adapted from: Brinjikji et al. *J NeuroIntervent Surg* 2023

**Time to treatment = modifiable**

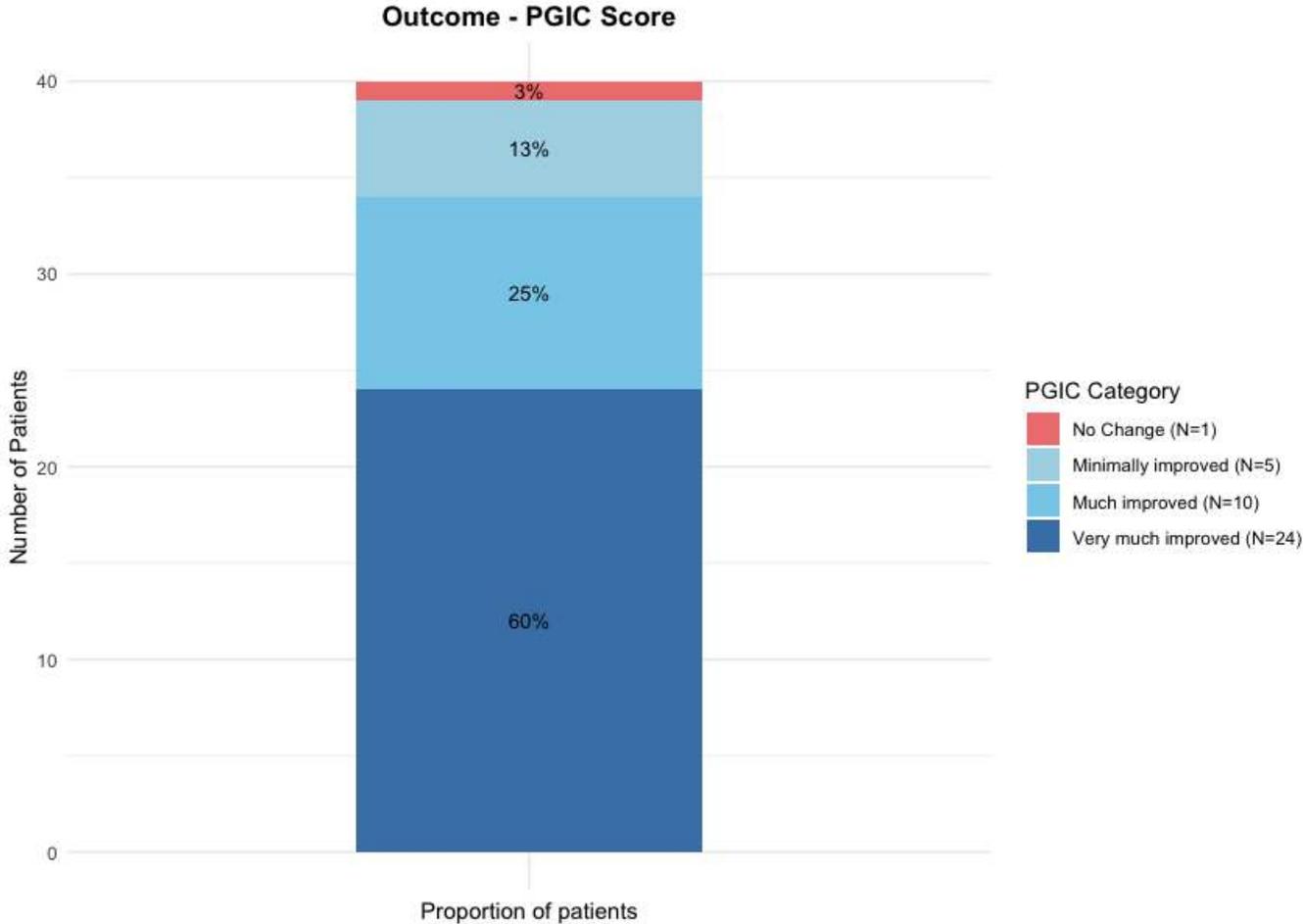
# Factors Predictive of Treatment Success in CT-Guided Fibrin Occlusion of CSF-Venous Fistulas: A Multicenter Retrospective Cross-Sectional Study

<sup>ID</sup> Andrew L. Callen, <sup>ID</sup> Lalani Carlton Jones, <sup>ID</sup> Vincent M. Timpone, <sup>ID</sup> Jack Pattee, <sup>ID</sup> Daniel J. Scoffings, <sup>ID</sup> David Butteriss, <sup>ID</sup> Thien Huynh, <sup>ID</sup> Peter Y. Shen, and <sup>ID</sup> Mark D. Mamlouk



Clinical improvement	
Complete	71 (59.7%)
None	7 (5.9%)
Partial	41 (34.5%)

# Nerve root clipping - Patient Global Impression of Change (PGIC)



85% very much/much improved  
98% improved

*El Rahal Beck J, Volz et al. 2024*

# Infratentorial Superficial Siderosis and Spontaneous Intracranial Hypotension

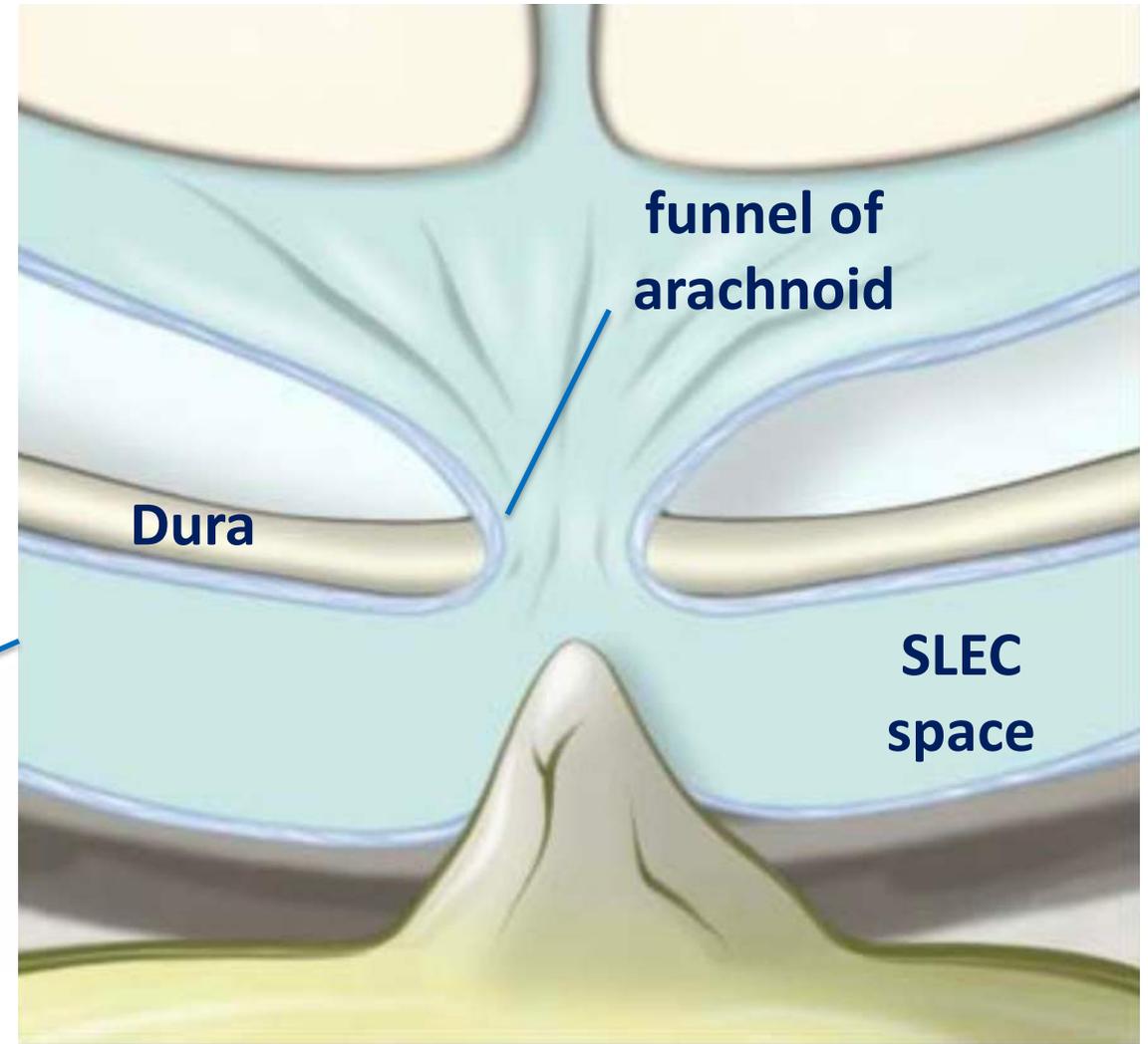
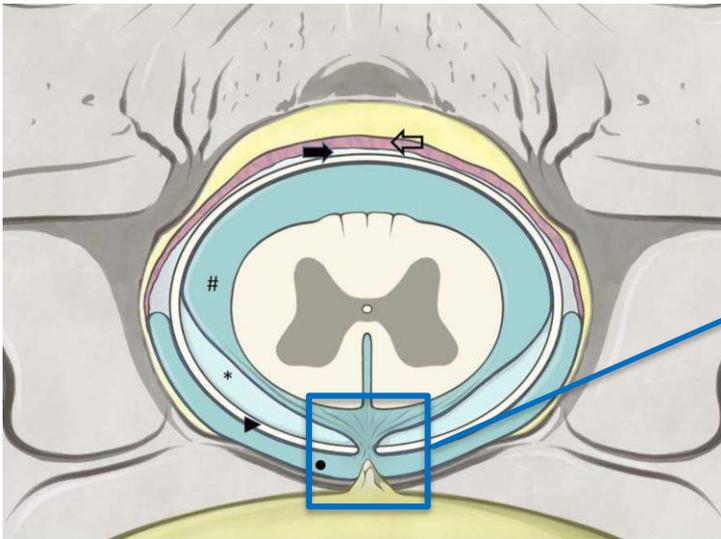
Wouter I. Schievink, MD <sup>1</sup>, M. Marcel Maya, MD,<sup>2</sup> Jennifer Harris, MD,<sup>3</sup>  
Javier Galvan, MD,<sup>2</sup> Rachelle B. Taché, NP-C, MSN,<sup>1</sup> and Miriam Nuño, PhD<sup>4</sup>

ANN NEUROL 2023

## Treatment success

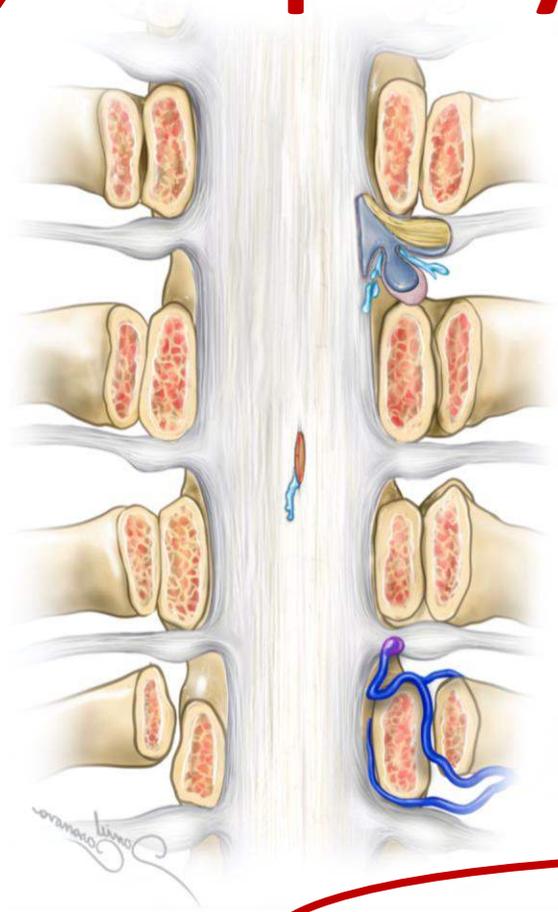
- **ventral CSF leaks could not be eliminated with percutaneous procedures in any patient**
- **surgical repair resulted in resolution of the CSF leak in all patients (know site)**
- **Surgical repair was associated with low risk (<5%)**

# Microsurgical anatomy - transdural membranes



# Sequelae of a spinal dural leak

## „Duropathy“



Type 2

Acute

Type 1

Type ?

Type 3

Chronic

- Spontaneous intracranial hypotension

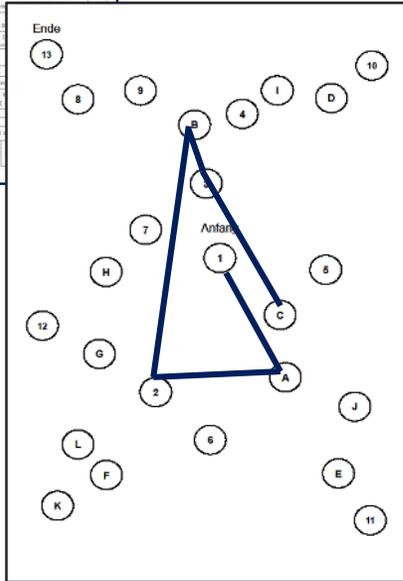
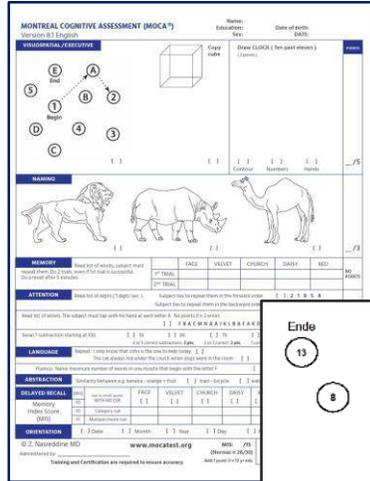
- Subdural hematoma
- Venous sinus thrombosis
- Diffuse nonaneurysmal SAH
- Bibrachial amyotrophy
- Brain sagging dementia

- Spinal cord herniation

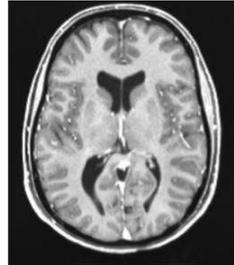
- Spinal dementia

- Superficial siderosis (iSS)

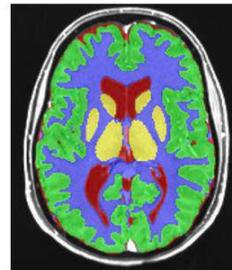
# Cognitive Impairment and SIH



MPRAGE 3D 1mm iso

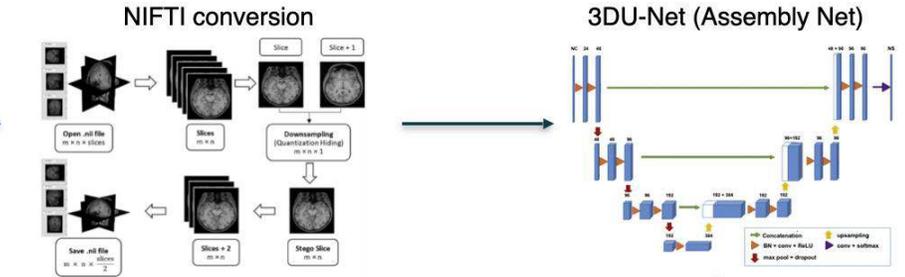


Segmentation map

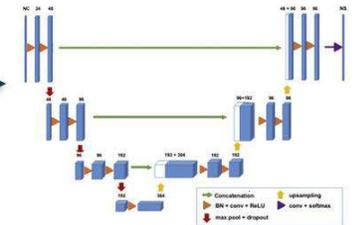


## Standard Clinical Testing

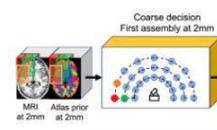
Wolf K, El Rahal A, Beck J et al, Headache 2025



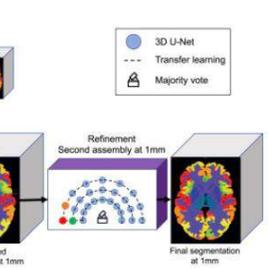
3DU-Net (Assembly Net)



Coarse detection - First Assembly



Refinement - 2nd Assembly



Prediction

Parliamentary decision-making systems

## CNN - Volumetry and brain segmentation

El Rahal A, Wolf K, Volz F Beck J et al, under revision



EANS CEREBROSPINAL FLUID  
SECTION

## International Collaborations

Inselspital Bern, Switzerland

Lindenhofspital Bern, Switzerland

UZH Zuerich, Switzerland

AKH, Vienna, Austria

University College London, UK

King's College, UK

Danish Headache Center, Denmark

Cedars Sinai, CA, USA

Stanford, CA, USA

Nagoya University, Japan

# CSF-Center Freiburg



### Neurosurgery & Neurology

J. Beck, K. Wolf, F. Volz, A. El Rahal, V. Vieira da Silva  
L. Krismer, M. Overstijns, M. Shah

### Neuroradiology

H. Urbach, N. Lützen,  
C. Zander, T. Demerath



**Nuclear Medicine**  
P.T. Meyer & Team

**Anesthesiology**  
H. Bürkle & Team

**Neuroophthalmology**  
W. Lagrèze & Team

**Neuromedical AI Lab**  
T. Ball & Team

**Medical Physics**  
M. Reisert & Team

Freiburg CSF Center  
Prof. Dr. Jürgen Beck



CSF CENTER

FREIBURG



MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT, FORSCHUNG UND KUNST  
Baden-Württemberg



@JrgenBeck  
@Niklas\_Luetzen  
@KathaDCwolf  
@ZanderCharlotte

# Thank you



*Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany*

*[j.beck@uniklinik-freiburg.de](mailto:j.beck@uniklinik-freiburg.de)*

# “Sinking into a coma” from spontaneous intracranial hypotension

Gordon R. Kelley, MD, and Joseph D. Burns, MD  
Neurology 2018

## PAPER

Subdural haematoma: a potentially serious consequence of spontaneous intracranial hypotension

R J de Noronha, B Sharrack, M Hadjivassiliou, C A J Romanowski

**Spontaneous occult intracranial hypotension precipitating life-threatening cerebral venous thrombosis: case report**

Avital Perry, MD,<sup>1</sup> Christopher S. Graffeo, MD,<sup>1</sup> Waleed Brinjikji, MD,<sup>2</sup> William R. Copeland III, MD,<sup>3</sup> Alejandro A. Rabinstein, MD,<sup>4</sup> and Michael J. Link, MD<sup>1,5</sup>

J Neurosurg Spine 2018

## Coma

A serious complication of spontaneous intracranial hypotension

Wouter I. Schievink, MD, M. Marcel Maya, MD, Franklin G. Moser, MD, MMM, Stacey Jean-Pierre, PA-C, and Miriam Nuño, PhD

Neurology<sup>®</sup> 2018;90:e1638-e1645. doi:10.1212/WNL.00000000000005477

## Correspondence

Dr. Schievink  
schievinkw@cshs.org

Spontaneous intracranial hypotension with deep brain swelling

Mario Savoiaro,<sup>1</sup> Ludovico Minati,<sup>1,3</sup> Laura Farina,<sup>1</sup> Tiziana De Simone,<sup>1</sup> Domenico Aquino,<sup>1</sup> Eliana Mea,<sup>2</sup> Graziella Filippini,<sup>2</sup> Gennaro Bussone<sup>2</sup> and Luisa Chiapparini<sup>1</sup>

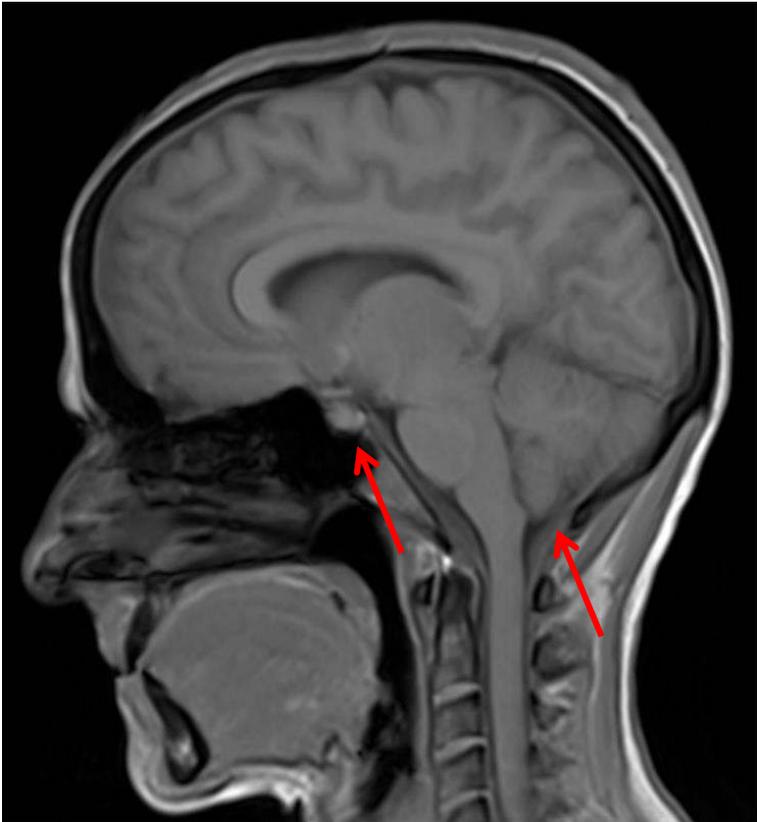
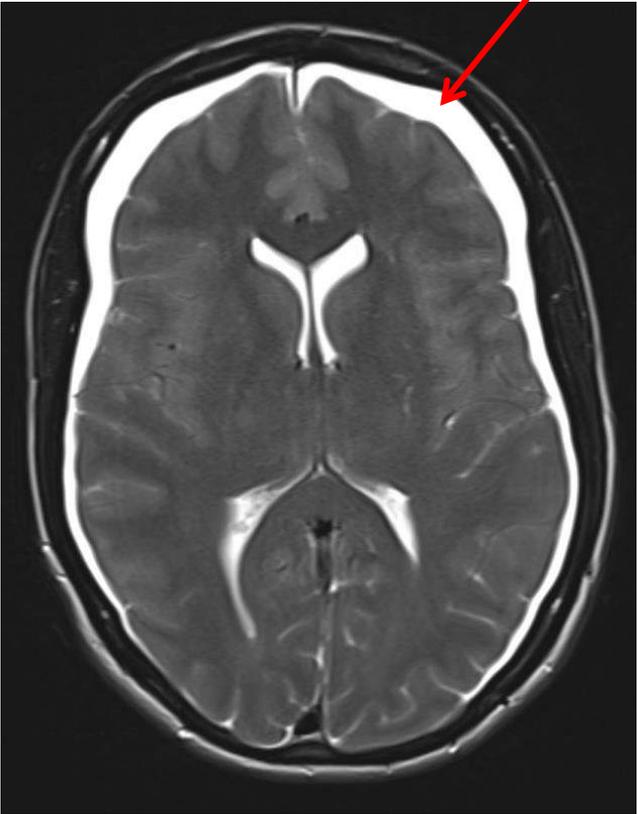
Brain 2007

Teaching *NeuroImages*:

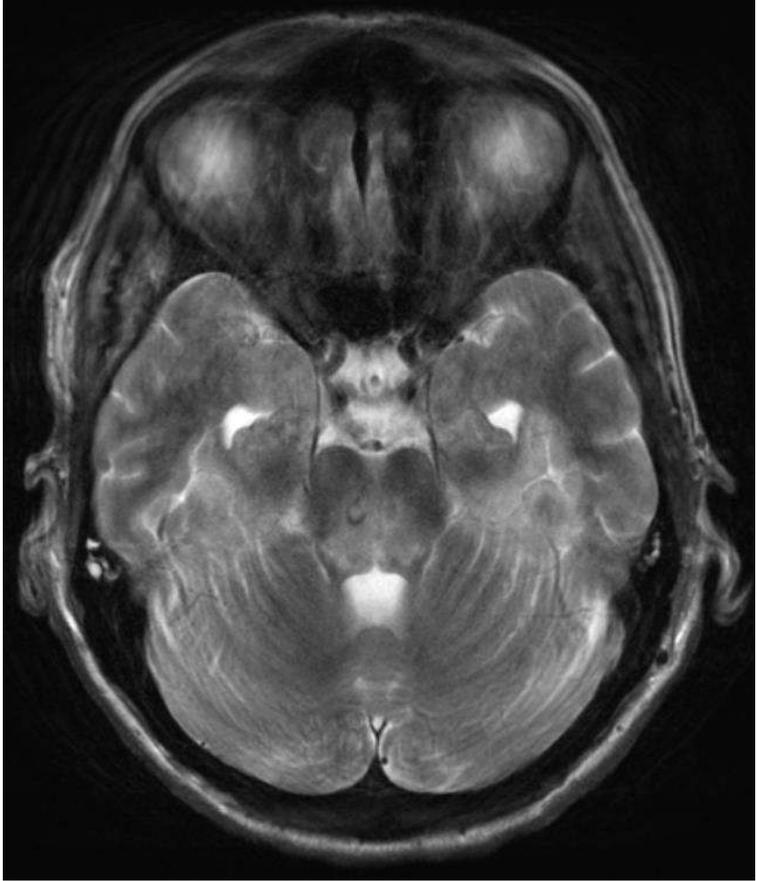
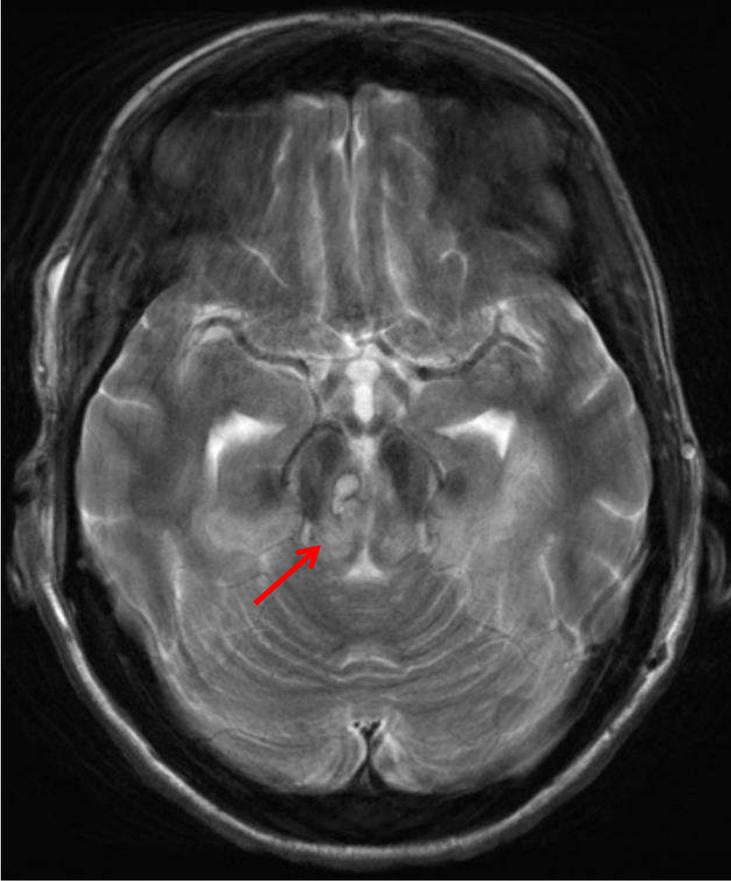
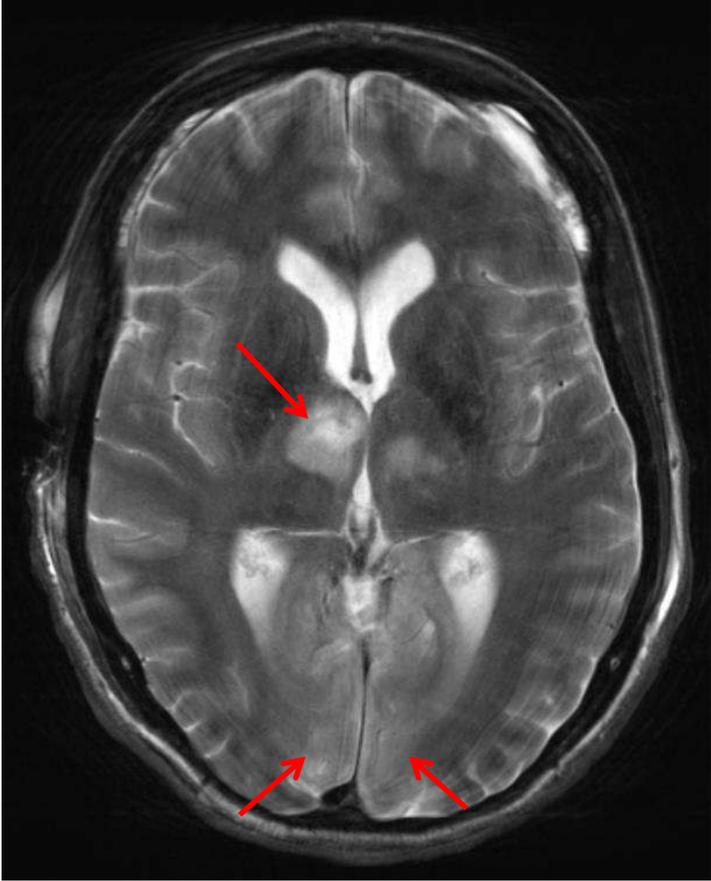
A dangerous complication of spontaneous intracranial hypotension

Neurology 2014

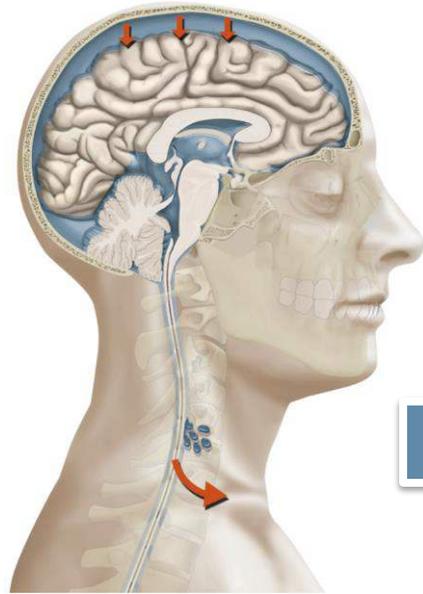
Case: E.B, 52y (F)



Case: E.B, 52y (F)



# Spontaneous Intracranial Hypotension



Acute

Chronic

Long Term

Spinal CSF leak

## † Death

- Subdural hematoma
- Venous sinus thrombosis
- Fatigue
- Loss of S-QoL
- Depression

## • spinal dementia

- Superficial siderosis
- Bibrachial amyotrophy
- Fronto-temporal dementia
- Spinal cord herniation

# TRANSVENOUS EMBOLIZATION OF CSF-VENOUS FISTULAE: FIRST-LINE TREATMENT

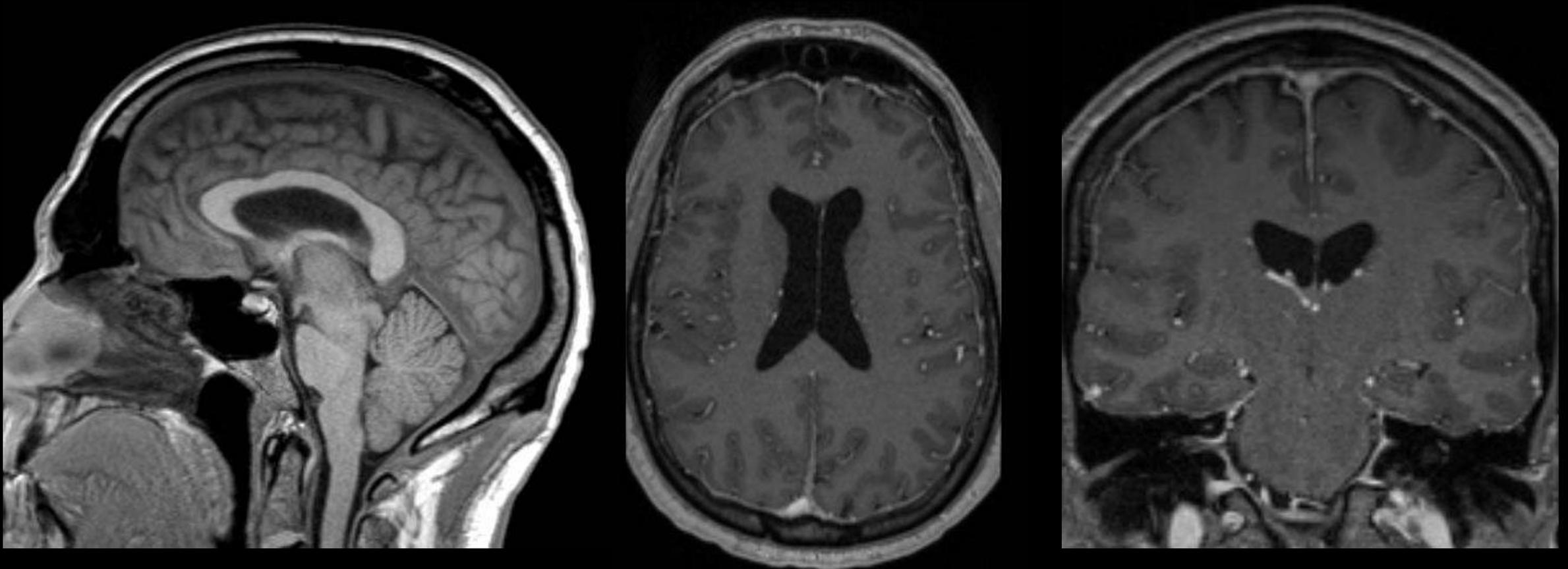
Thien Huynh, MD MSc FRCPC  
Assistant Professor, Consultant  
Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology  
Mayo Clinic, Florida



# DISCLOSURES

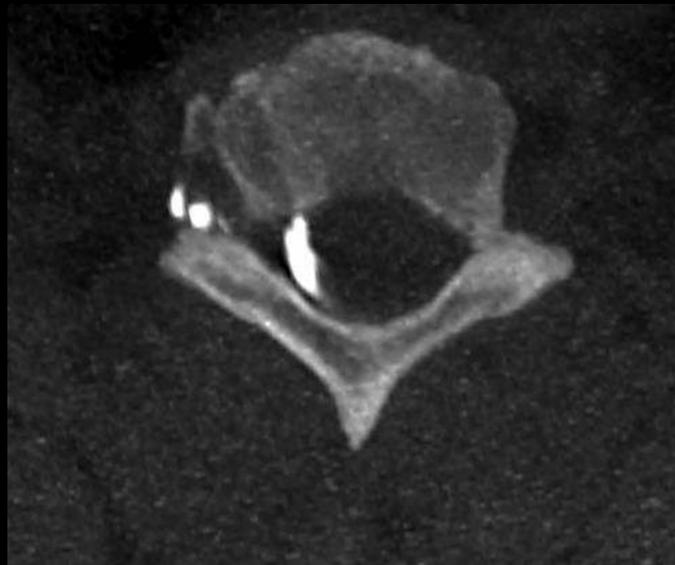
- No financial disclosures

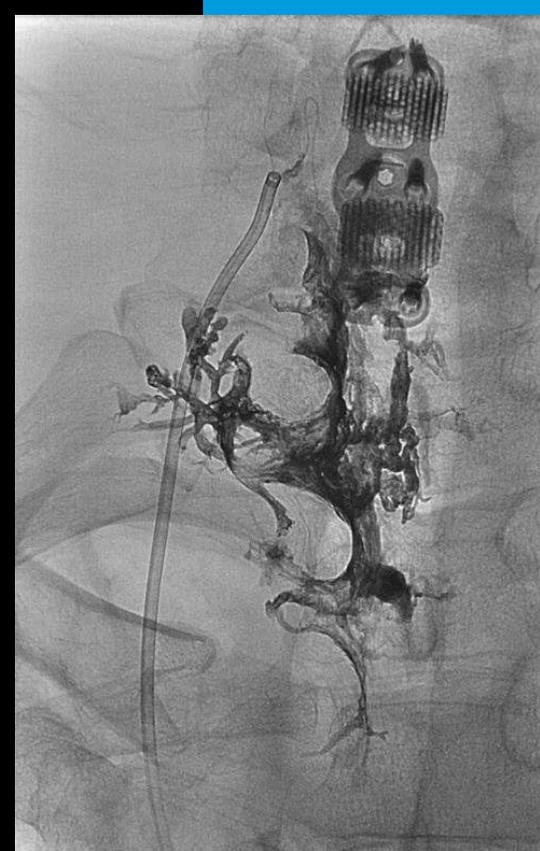
**60 year old male, 5+ years headache, brain fog,  
frontotemporal dementia syndrome**



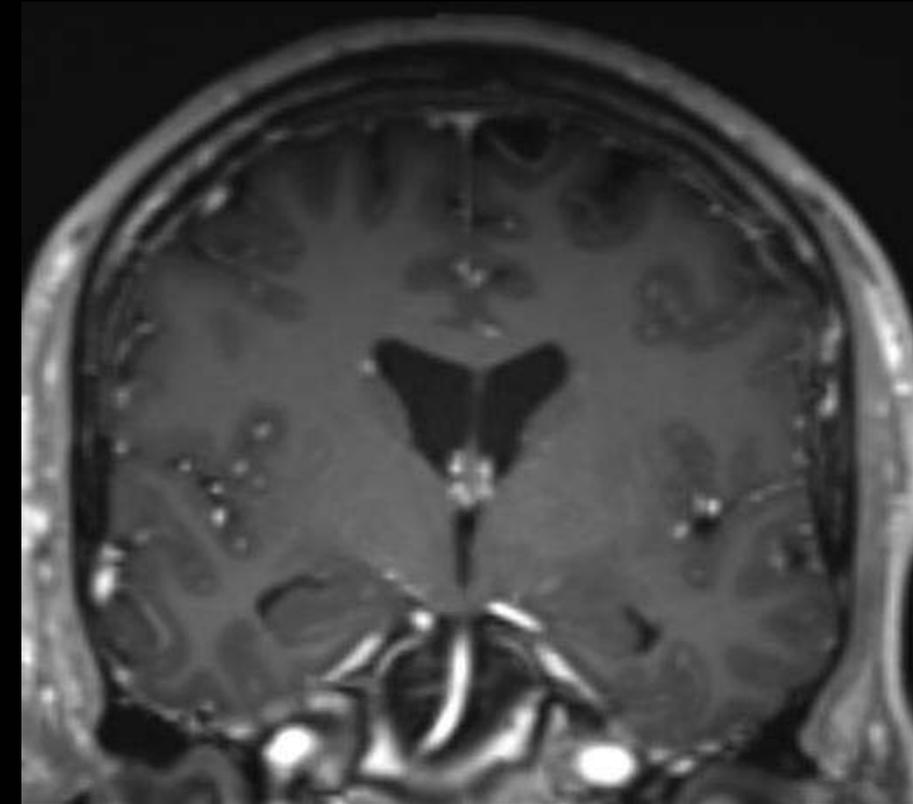
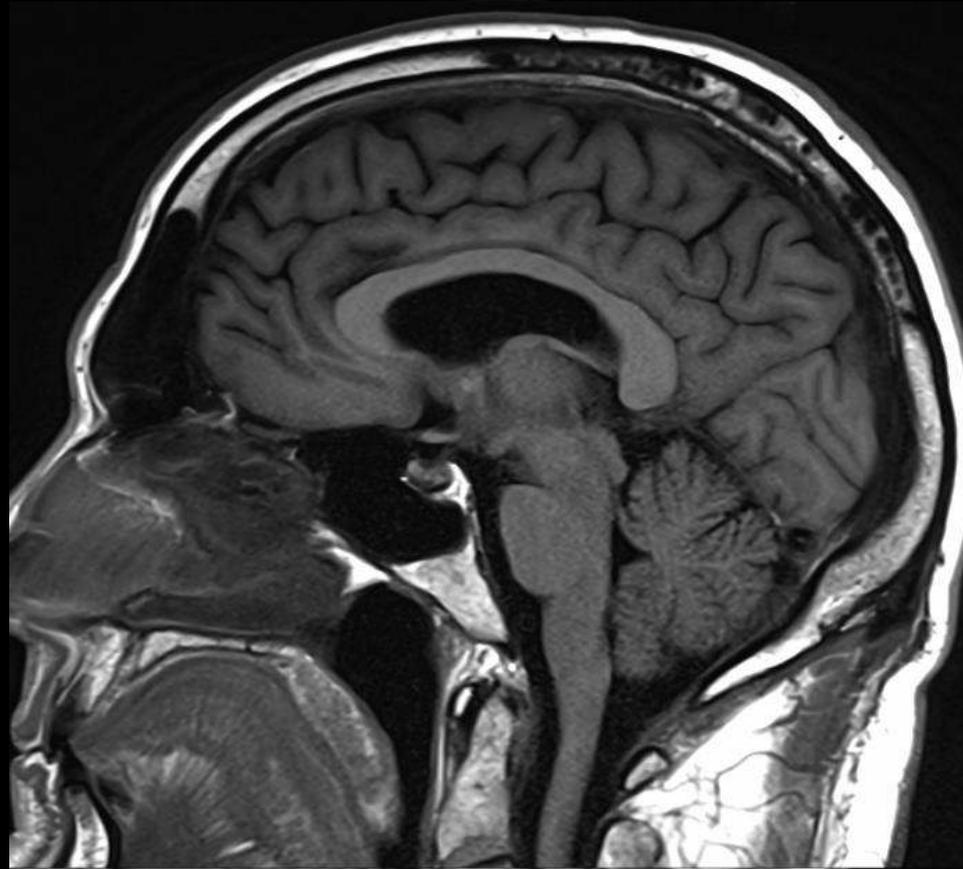
# DYNAMIC LATERAL DECUBITUS CT MYELOGRAM WITH BOLUS TRACKING

## CSF-VENOUS FISTULA RIGHT T1





Right T1  
CSF-venous  
fistula  
embolization

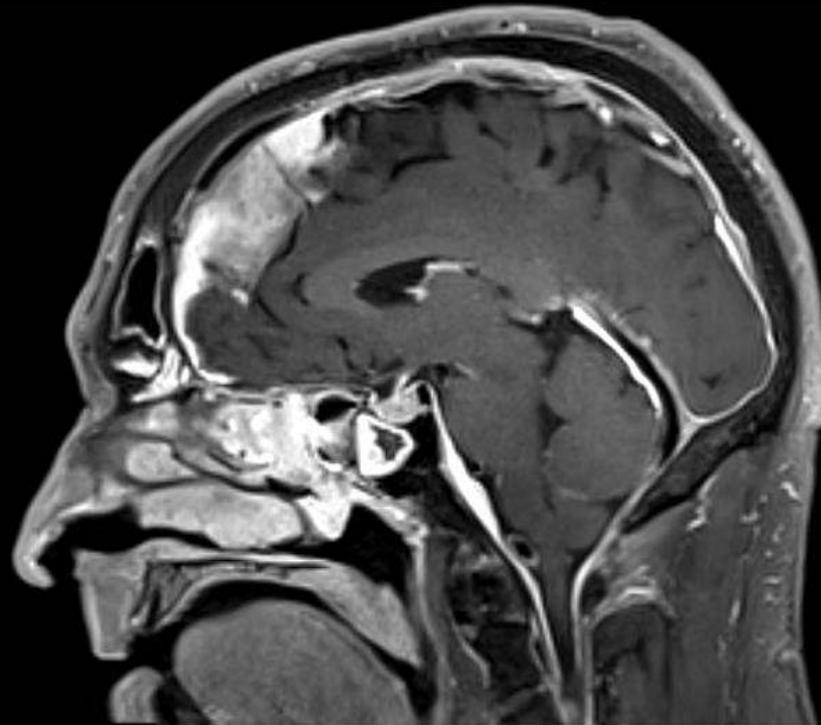
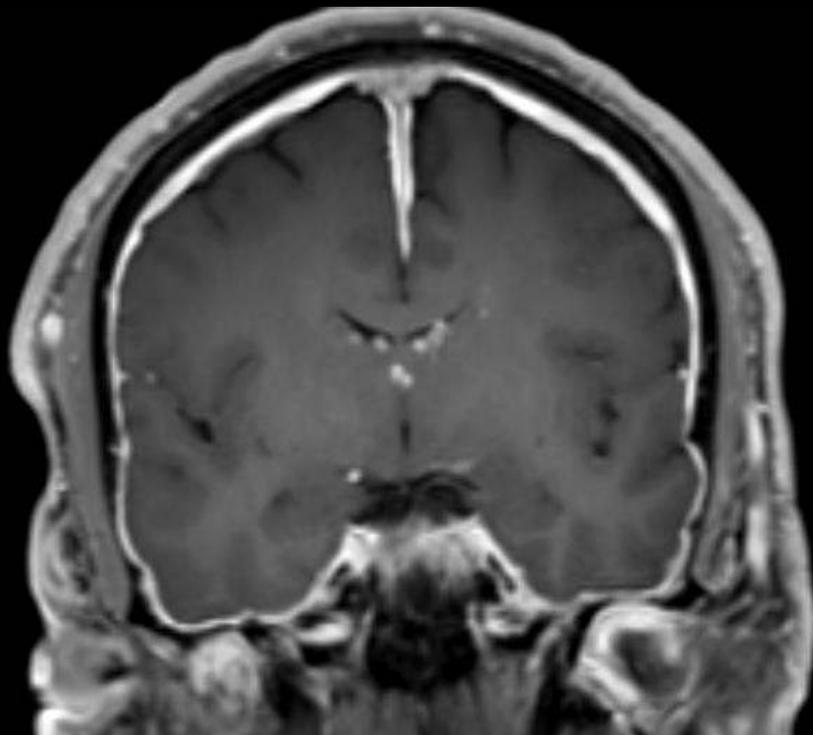


Complete resolution of dementia and headache <1 month

Why do we treat endovascularly?  
(vs. fibrin glue or surgery)

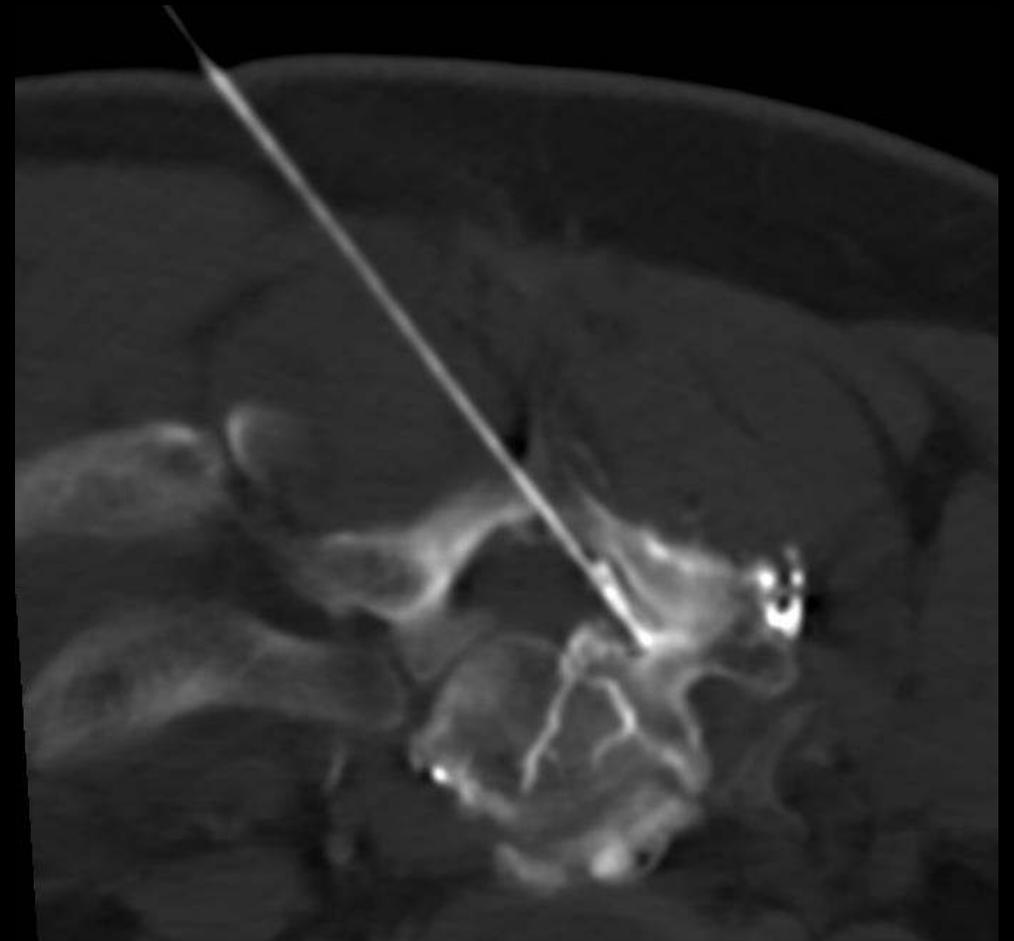
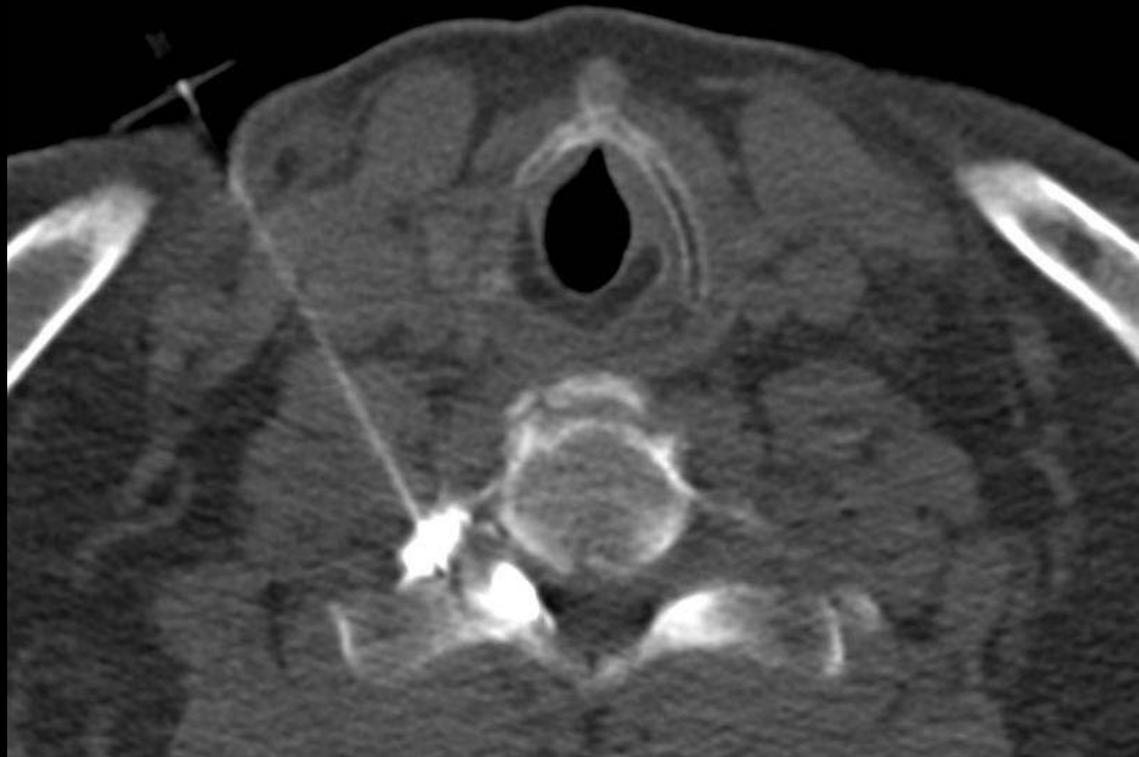
# MCF First CVF Embolization Patient Nov 2020

- 60M, 8 years progressive gait instability and brain fog, trigeminal neuralgia
- CVF at C7
- Recurrence of symptoms <1-2 months after x2 fibrin patching  
(despite initial rebound headache and partial resolution of symptoms)



**C7 CT Targeted Fibrin Patch x2:  
HARD WORK: Treatment failure – UNPREDICTABLE results**

Surgery at functional level?





**RE: Confidential Next Frontier of CSF Leak Treatment**

Brinjikji, Waleed, M.D.

 You forwarded this message on 11/11/2020 10:34 AM.

Sent: Wed 11/11/2020 10:12 AM

# CVF TRANSVENOUS EMBOLIZATION

- First described by Brinjikji 2021
- CVF venous embolization highly attractive:
  - Targeted permanent venous occlusion compared to epidural fibrin/blood patch
  - Minimally invasive compared to open surgery – preserves nerve at eloquent levels
  - Safety of venous endovascular procedure



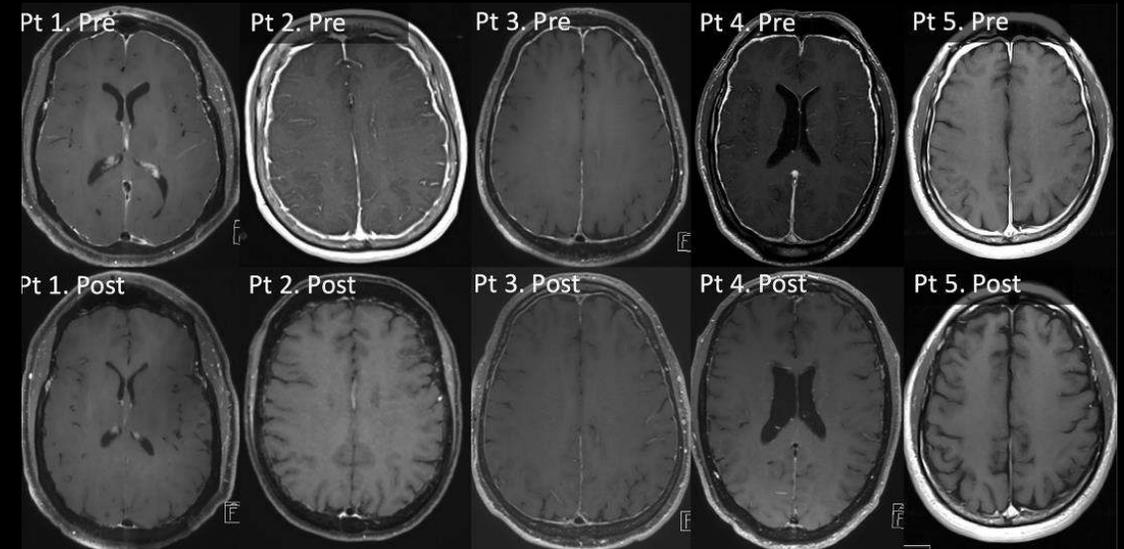
Brinjikji AJNR 2021

# A Novel Endovascular Therapy for CSF Hypotension Secondary to CSF-Venous Fistulas

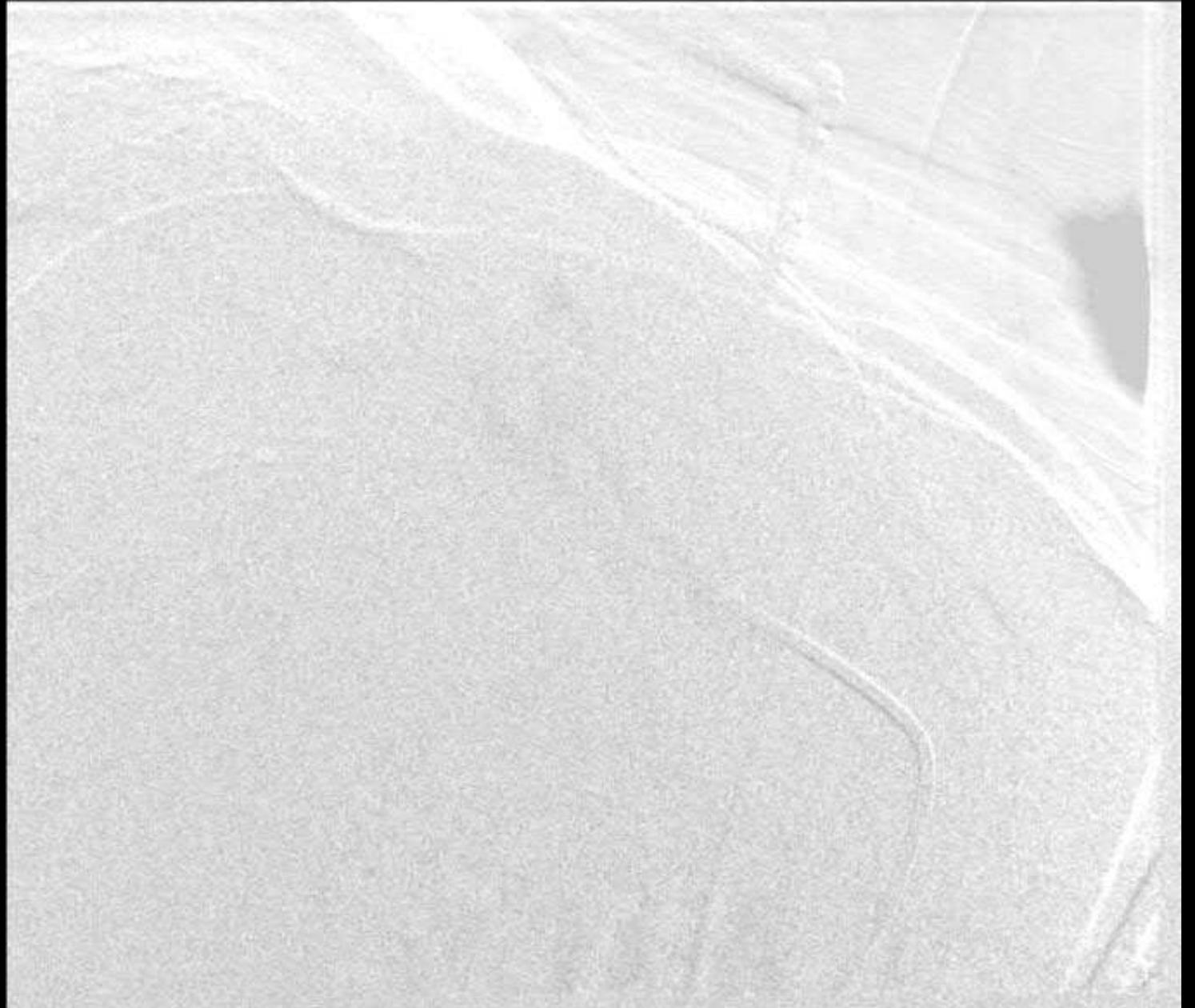
W. Brinjikji, L.E. Savastano, J.L.D. Atkinson, I. Garza, R. Farb, and J.K. Cutsforth-Gregory

Brinjikji May 2021 www.ajnr.org

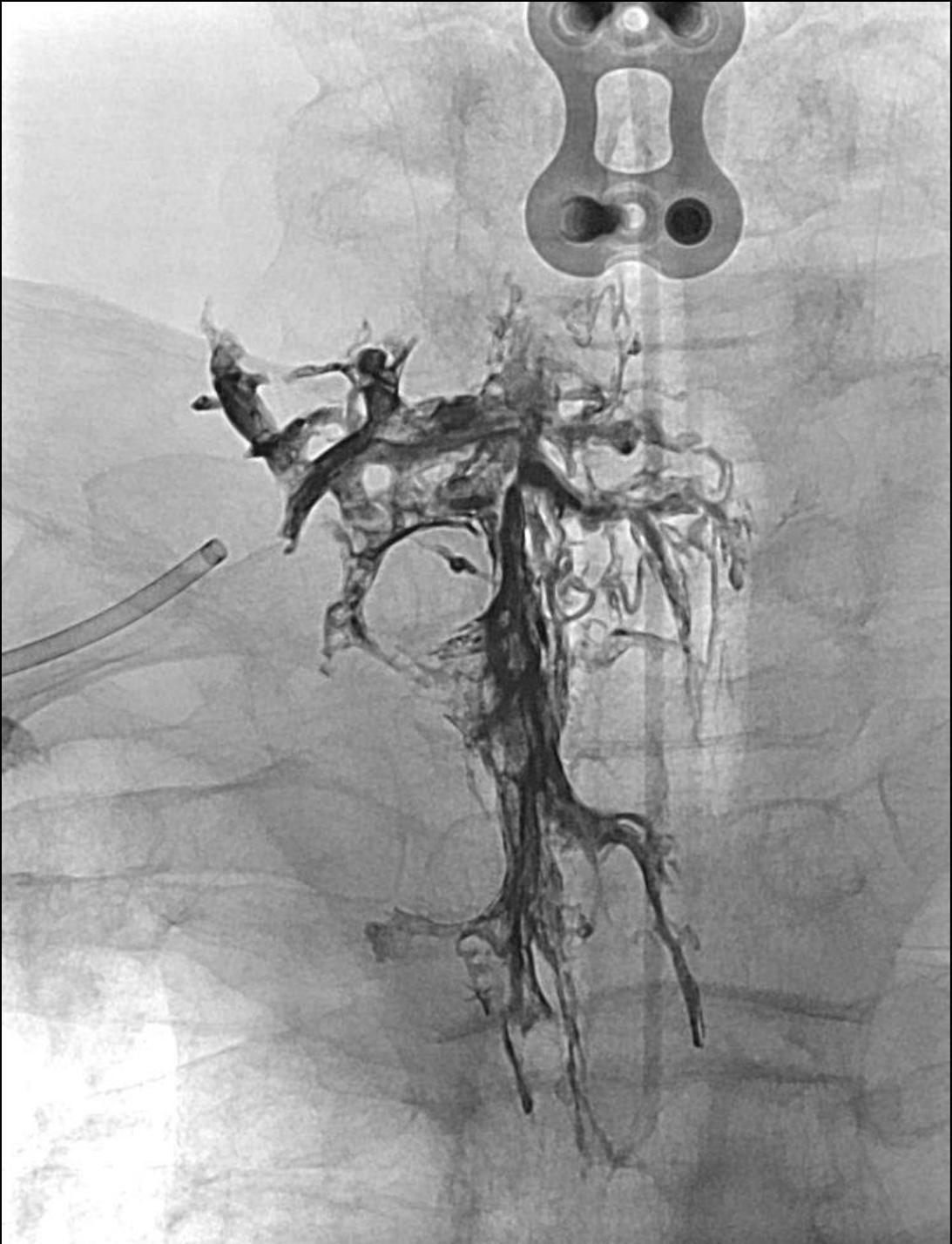
- 5 patients with CVF embolization
- 5/5 (100%) symptom improvement;
  - 4/5 complete, 1/5 partial
- 5/5 (100%) had improvement in MRI Brain SIH findings:
  - 3/5 complete resolution, 2/5 partial

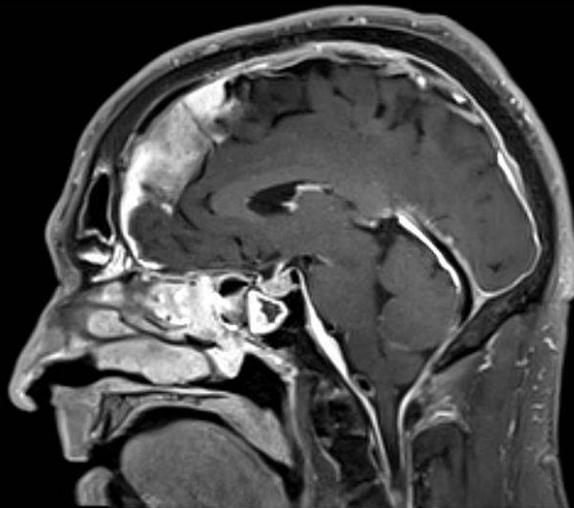


# Case 1: CVF Right C7

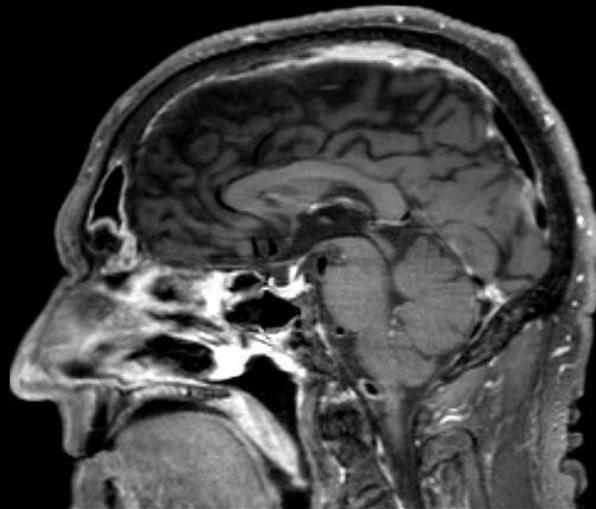




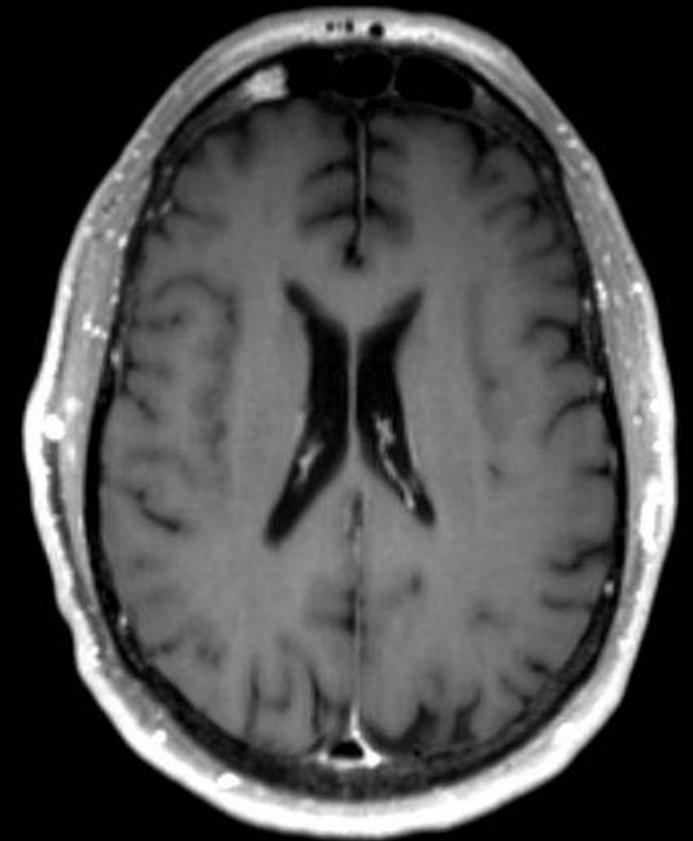




Baseline



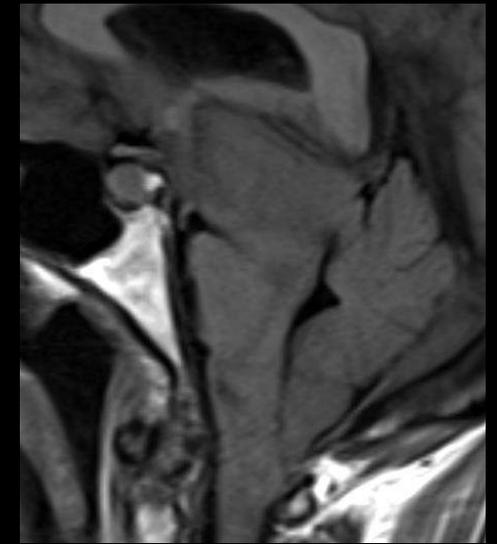
6 months



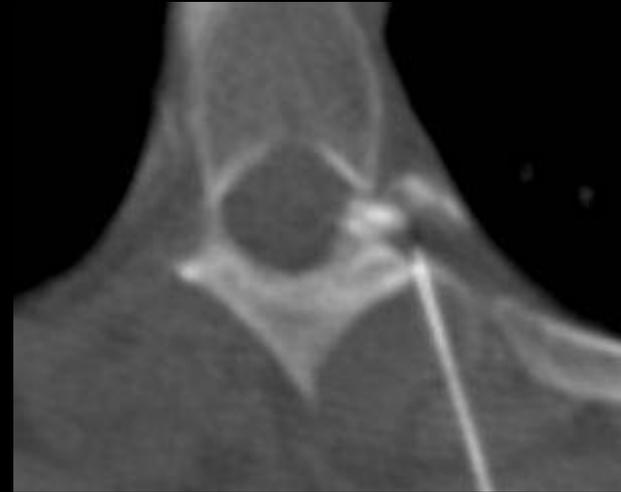
1.5 years

# Case 2: 60F, 10 years+ headaches, gait imbalance, syncope

CT Fibrin patch, Left T4 x 2



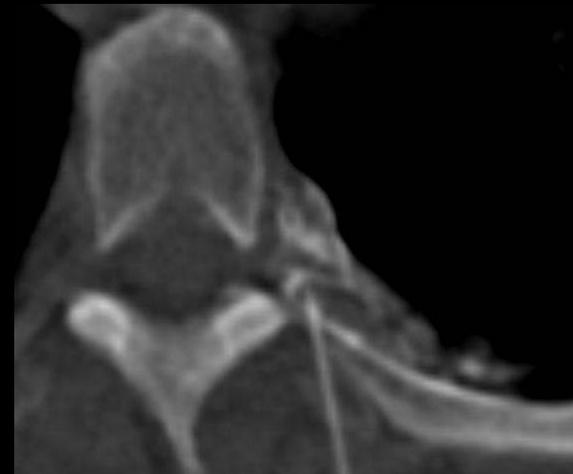
Only 1-2 months  
symptom relief  
each patch



Oct 2018



Jan 2021

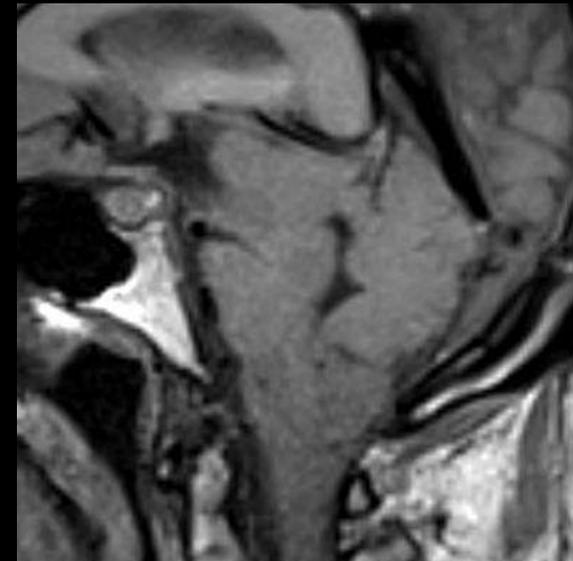


Sept 2020



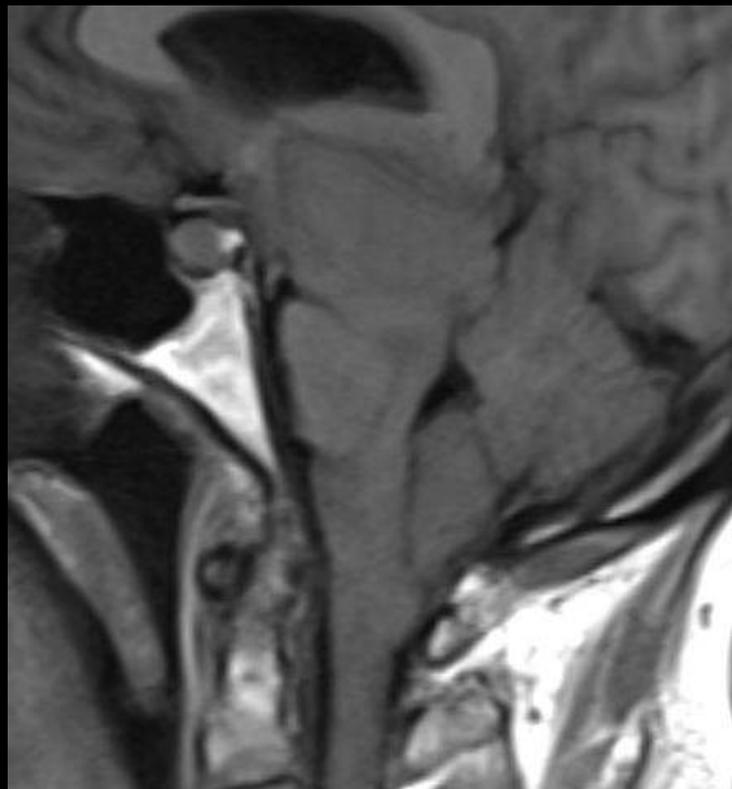
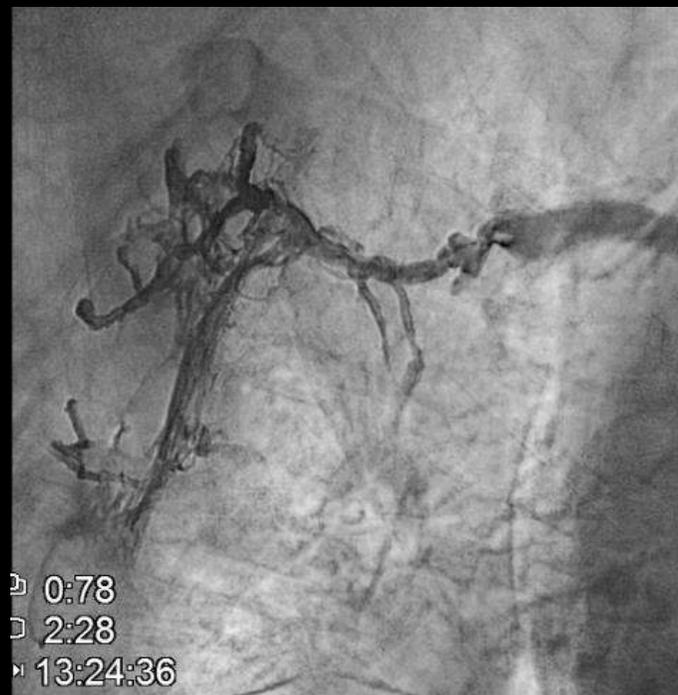
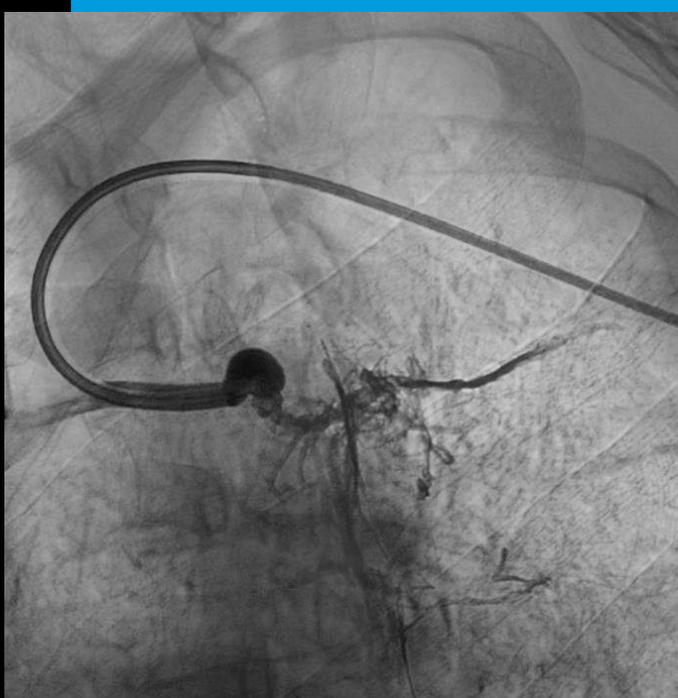
CVF Left T4?  
Oct 2018

Dec 2016



# CASE 2: RESIDUAL LEFT T4 CVF

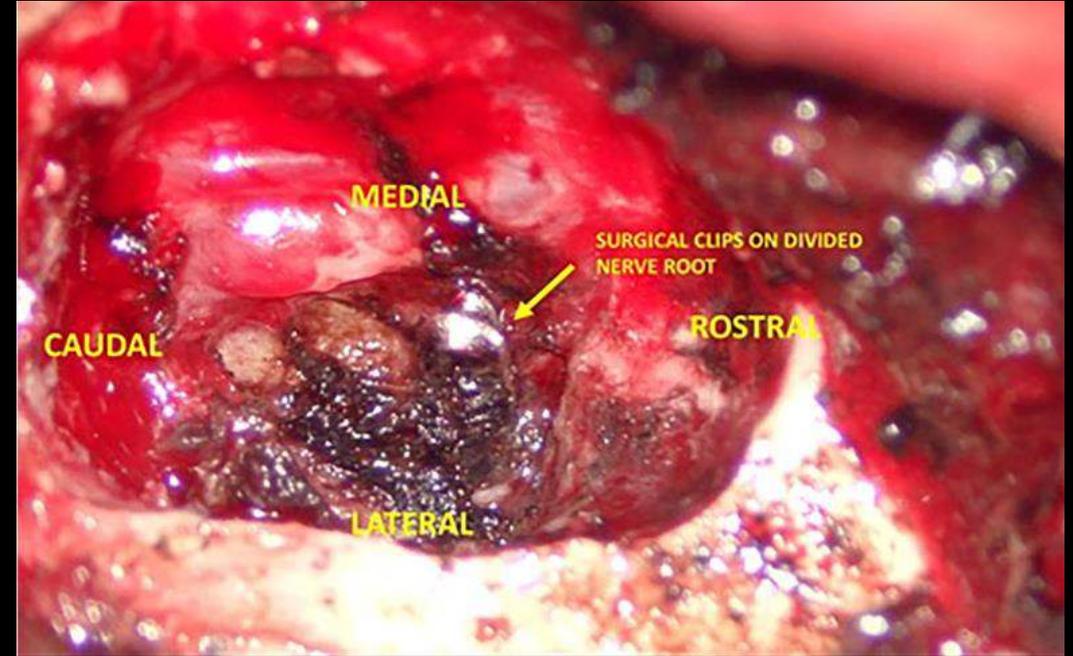




3 months post

Embolization for CSF-Venous Fistula:  
Very impactful/rewarding procedure...  
... if done correctly!

# TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES DISCUSSION



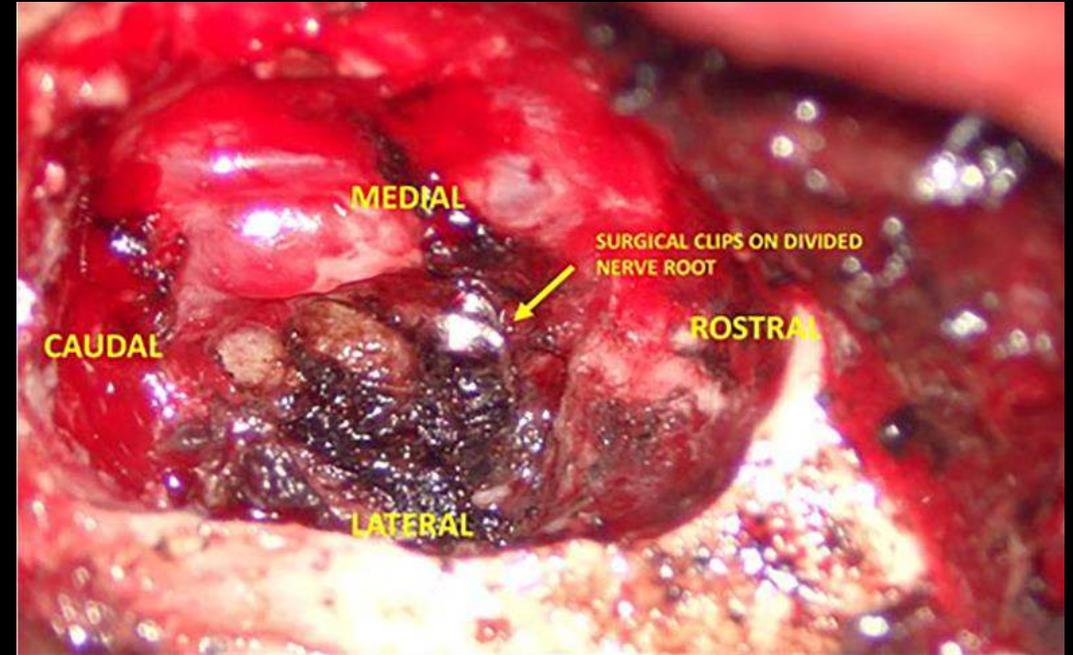
## Targeted fibrin patch

- ~30-50% success first attempt?
- highly variable efficacy
- does not leave residual dense artifact

## Surgical ligation

- 80-90% improvement
- Invasive/laminotomy
- +/- nerve root sacrifice
- ?Adamkiewicz
  
- ?Local expertise/interest

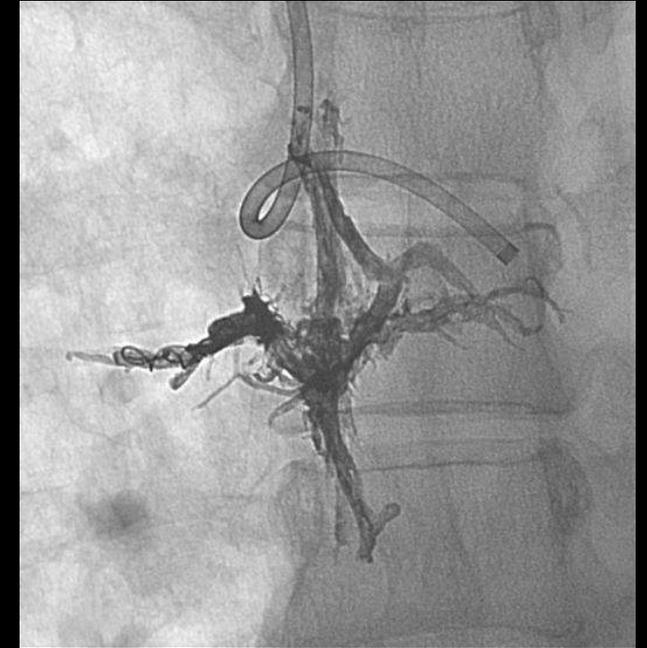
# TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES DISCUSSION



Most patients want highest efficacy treatment with least morbidity with a single treatment.

# CVF TRANSVENOUS EMBOLIZATION

- Procedure now performed internationally
  - Mayo Rochester ~400+, Mayo Florida ~100
- Validated in larger, independent, US & international cohorts (Brinjikji JNIS 2023; Parizadeh JNIS 2023; Cagnazzo INR 2024; Cagnazzo JNIS 2025)
- 90-94% clinical and 88-94% imaging improvement (HIT-6, Bern SIH Score)
  - Mean follow-up 15 months



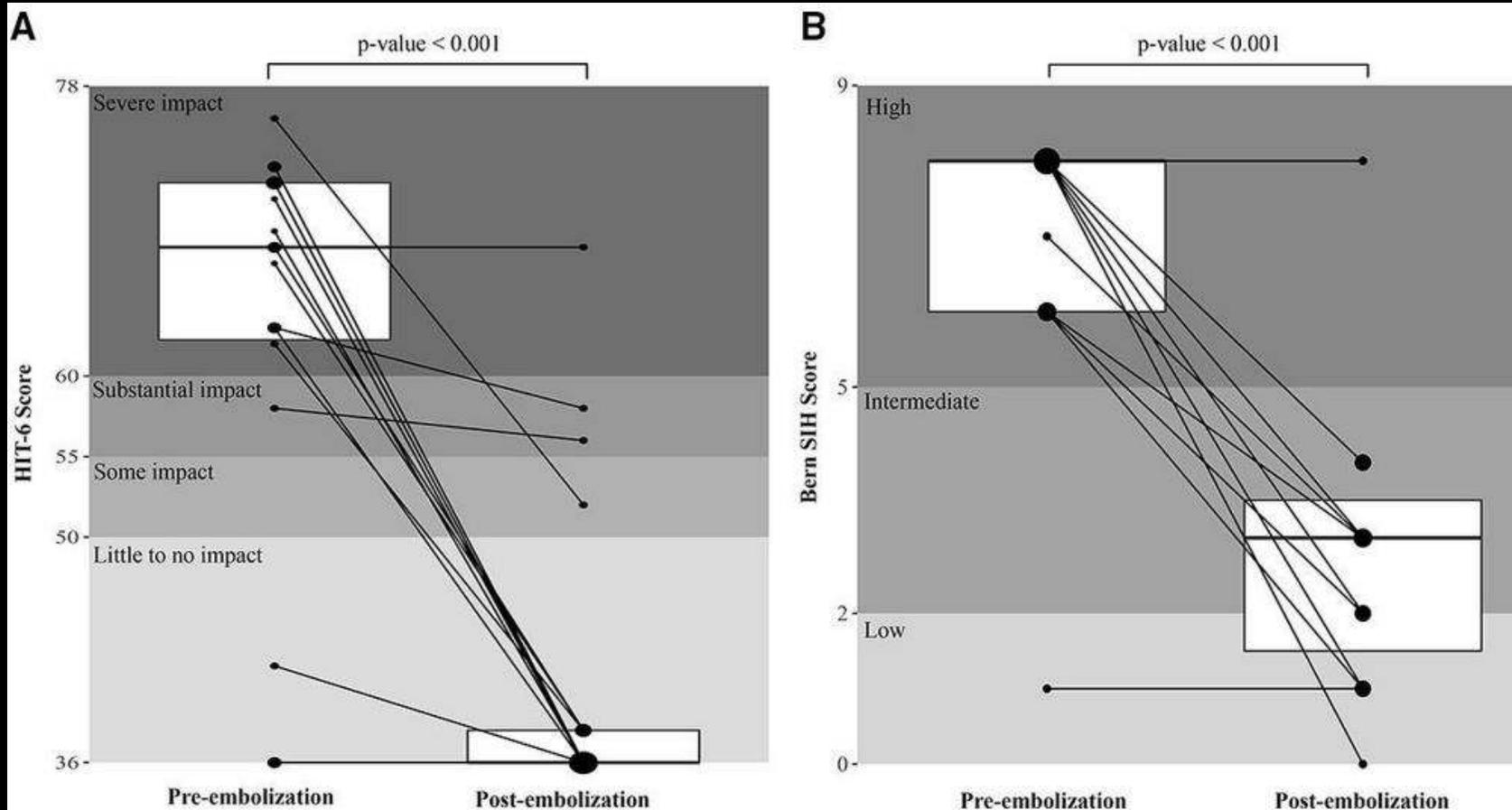
JNIS Technical Videos:



Original research

## Transvenous embolization of cerebrospinal fluid-venous fistulas: Independent validation and feasibility of upper-extremity approach and using dual-microcatheter and balloon pressure cooker technique

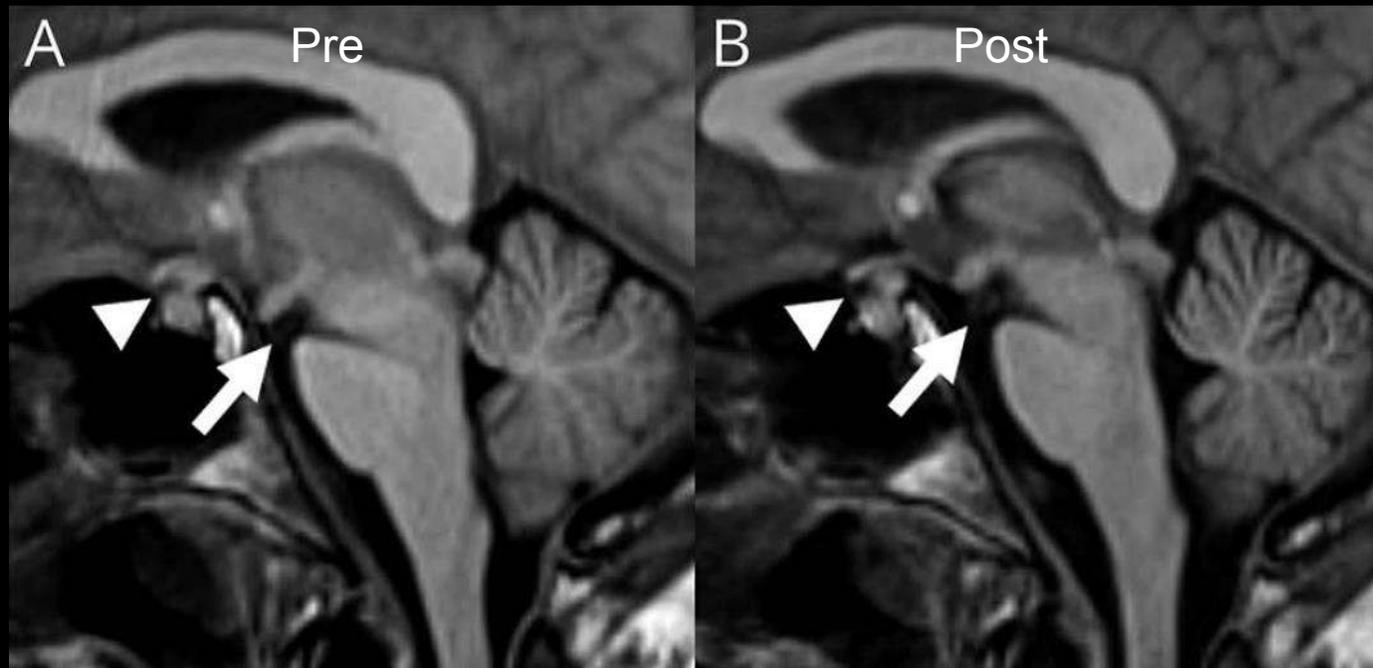
Donna Parizadeh <sup>1</sup>, Olga Fermo, <sup>2</sup> Prasanna Vibhute, <sup>1</sup> Vivek Gupta, <sup>1</sup>  
Jorge L Arturo Larco <sup>1</sup>, Sanjeet S Grewal, <sup>3</sup> Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa, <sup>3</sup>  
Young M Erben, <sup>4,5</sup> Steven Clendenen, <sup>4</sup> Todd D Rozen, <sup>2</sup> Thien J Huynh <sup>1</sup>



# Rapid Clinical and Imaging Improvement in Features of Spontaneous Intracranial Hypotension in 48 hours After CSF-Venous Fistula Embolization

Elizabeth L. Saionz, Michelle P. Lin, Sheraz Ahmed, Shayan Butt, James F. Meschia, and Thien Huynh

*Neurology*<sup>®</sup> 2025;104:e210181. doi:10.1212/WNL.0000000000210181

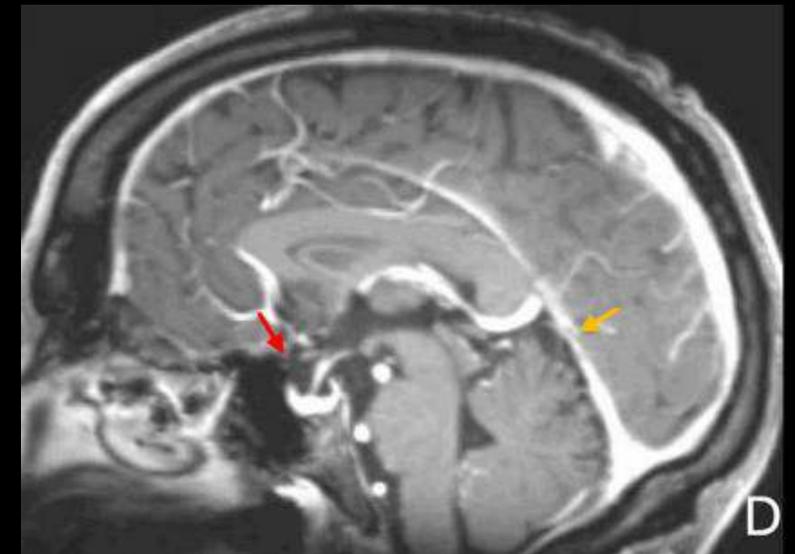
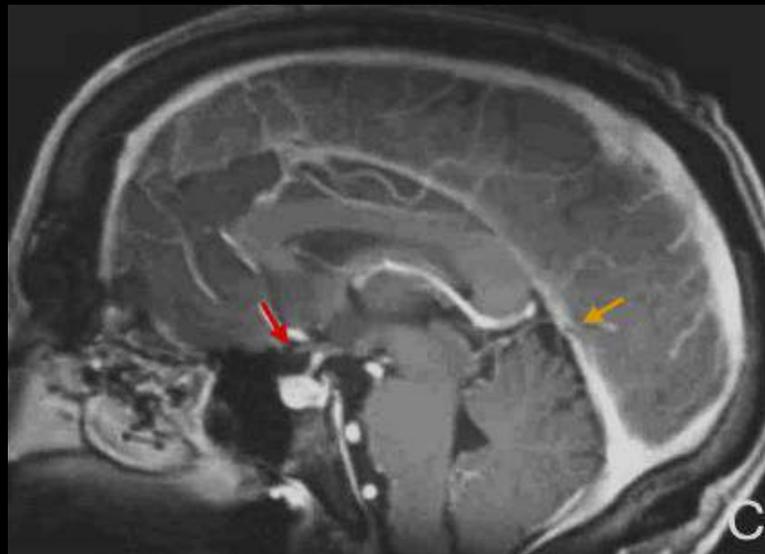
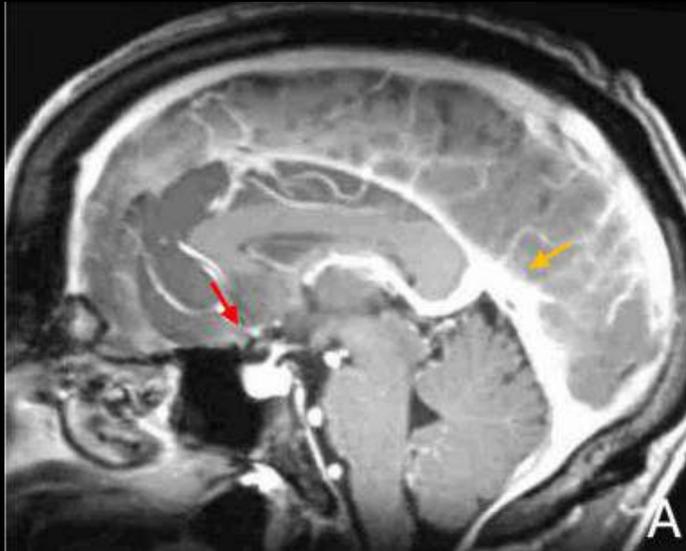


Original research

## Early brain MRI changes following transvenous embolization of cerebrospinal fluid-venous fistulas in spontaneous intracranial hypotension

Federico Cagnazzo ,<sup>1</sup> Emmanuelle Le bars,<sup>1</sup> Gaetano Risi,<sup>1</sup> Nicolas Lonjon,<sup>2</sup> Liesjet E H van Dokkum,<sup>1</sup> Lucas Corti,<sup>3</sup> Vincent Costalat,<sup>1,4</sup> Anne Ducros<sup>3</sup>

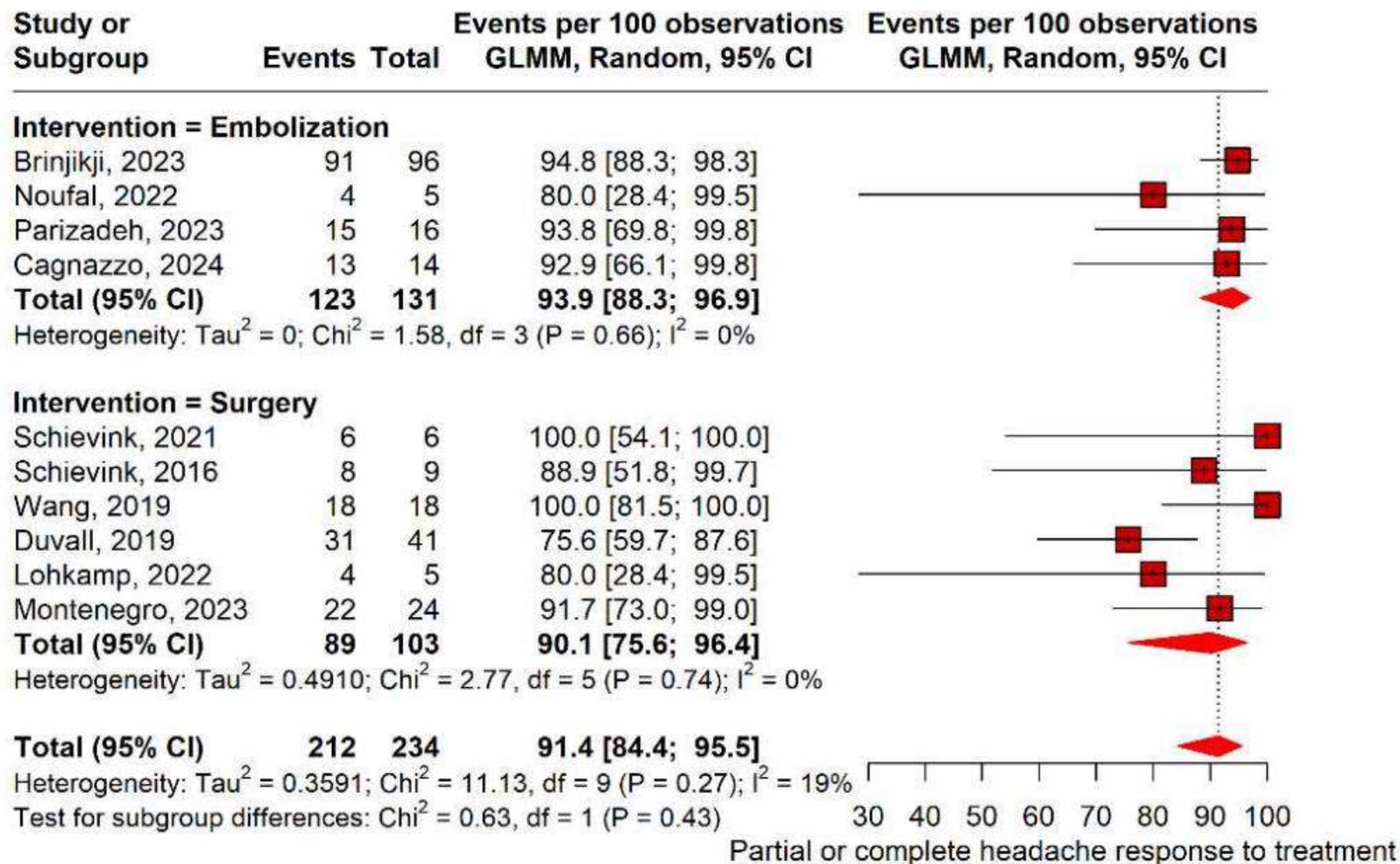
*J NeuroIntervent Surg* 2025;**0**:1–8. doi:10.1136/jnis-2024-022957



# Transvenous Embolization vs. Surgical Intervention for cerebrospinal fluid Venous Fistulas: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Seyed Behnam Jazayeri<sup>1\*</sup>, Mohammad Mirahmadi Eraghi<sup>2</sup>, Julien Ognard<sup>3,4</sup>, Sherief Ghozy<sup>3,5</sup>, Ramanathan Kadirvel<sup>3</sup>, Waleed Brinjikji<sup>3,5</sup>, David F. Kallmes<sup>3</sup>

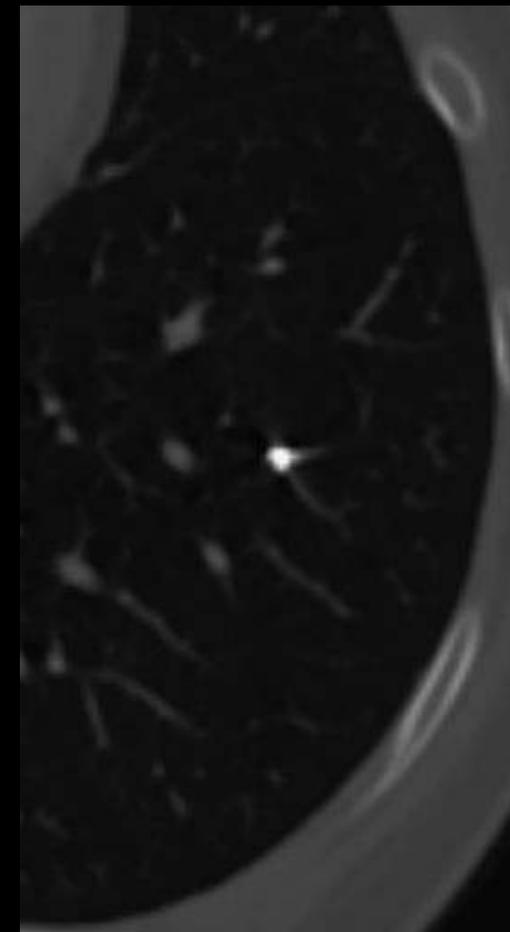
- Similar partial or complete (90%) clinical improvement rates
- Symptom resolution similar (59% embo vs 70% surgery;  $p = 0.38$ )
- Retreatment rates 15% embo vs 11% surgery ( $p = 0.63$ )



**FIG 2 Forest plot of partial or complete response to treatment for headache**

# SAFETY/COMPLICATIONS

- High technical success rate
- No neurological complications (no cord compression, cord ischemia)
- 1% radiculopathy/numbness which resolved after a year; no motor deficits
  - (1 personal patient with persistent hand weakness/numbness, CVF Right T1)
- 5% asymptomatic pulmonary onyx
- 5% paraspinal/epidural vein perforation (no sequela)



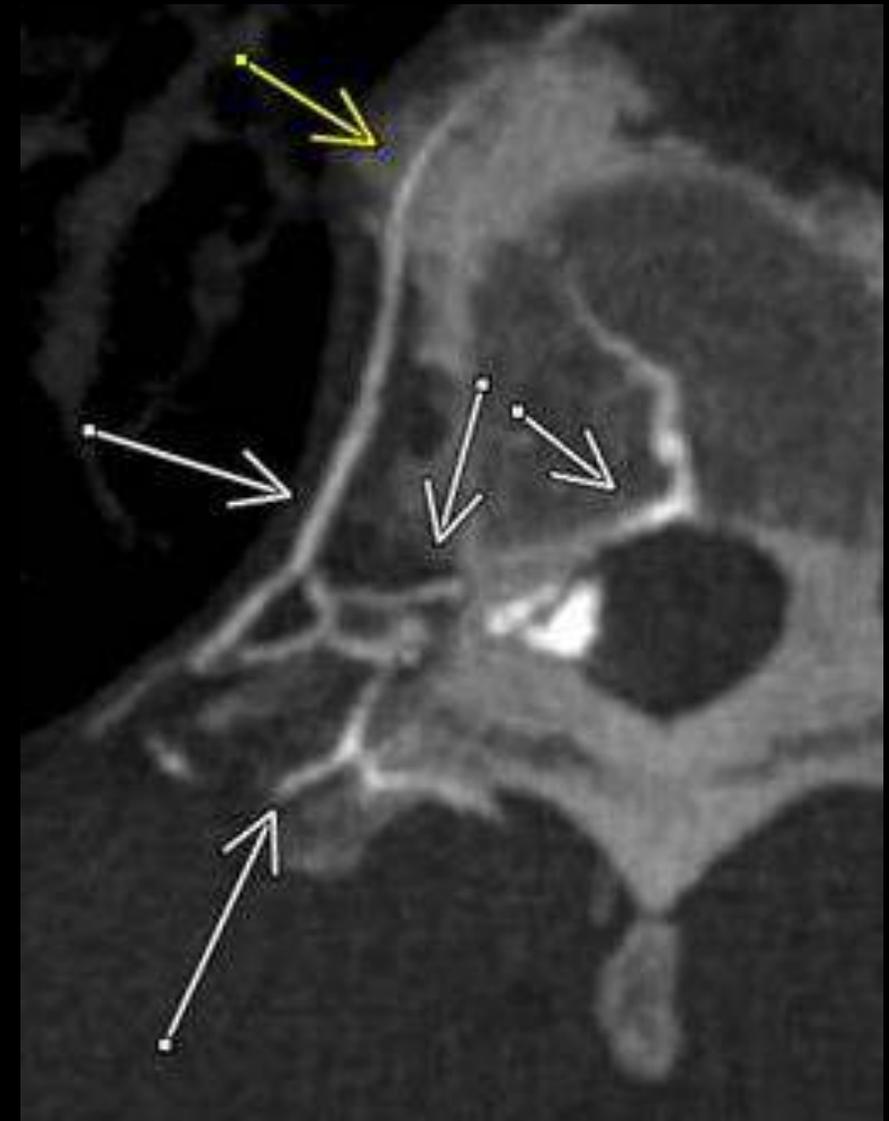
Brinjikji JNIS 2023; Parizadeh JNIS 2023

# TREATMENT FAILURES (5-10%)?

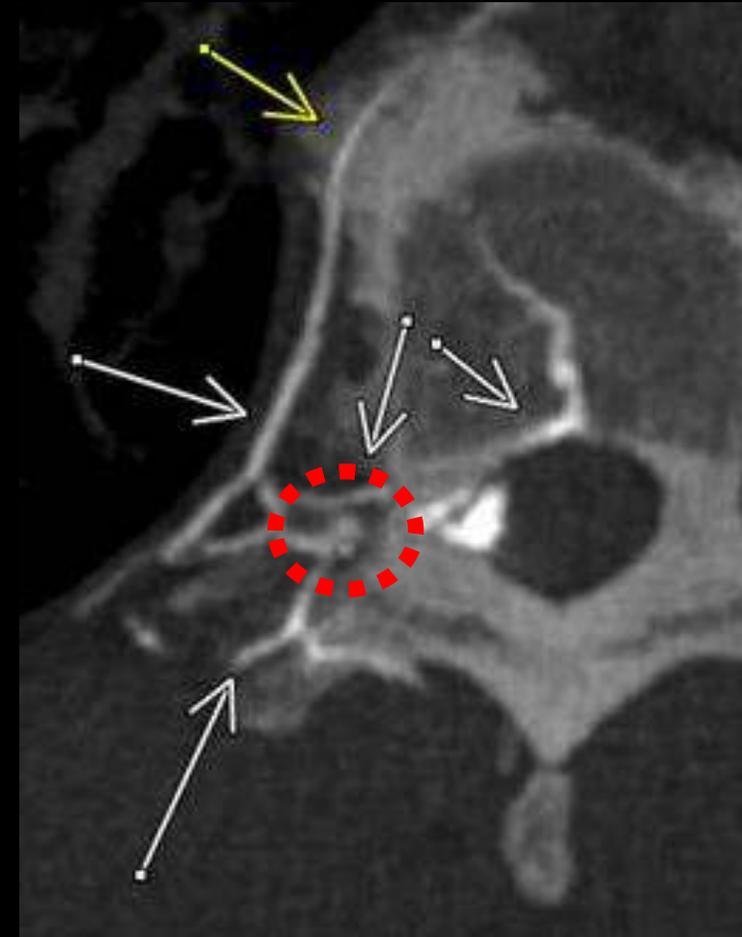
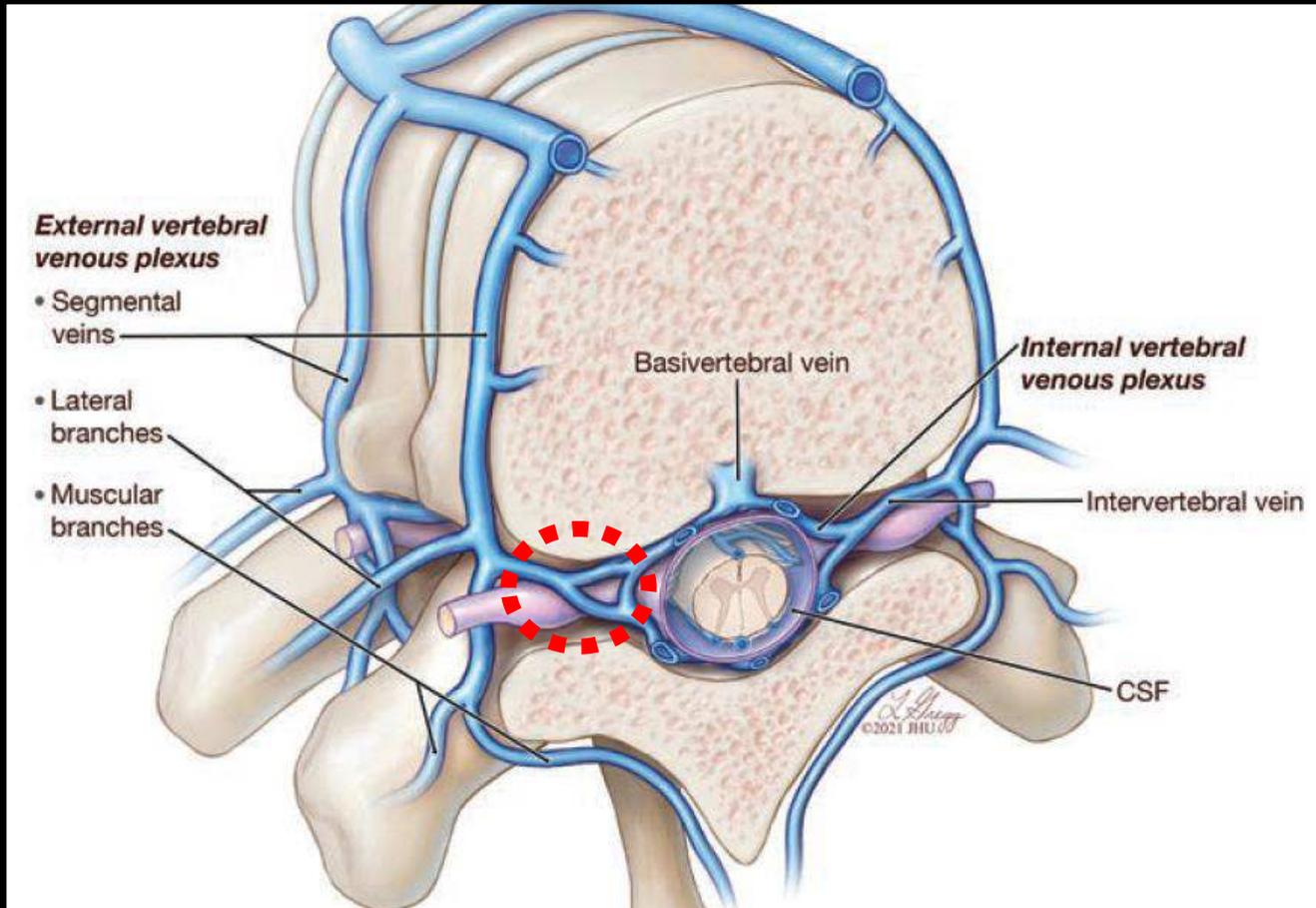
- Technical nuances
  - Unable to localize or confirm CVF closure using myelography intra-procedure
    - Relies on clear/definite depiction of CVF on DSM/CTM
    - Use anatomical landmarks for microcatheter positioning and onyx cast distribution
    - Ensure thorough embolization - Insufficient embolization results in residual CVF

## Lateral Decubitus Dynamic CT Myelography with Real-Time Bolus Tracking (dCTM-BT) for Evaluation of CSF-Venous Fistulas: Diagnostic Yield Stratified by Brain Imaging Findings

Thien J. Huynh, Donna Parizadeh, Ahmed K. Ahmed, Christopher T. Gandia, Hal C. Davison, John V. Murray, Ian T. Mark, Ajay A. Madhavan, Darya Shlapak, Todd D. Rozen, Waleed Brinjikji, Prasanna Vibhute, Vivek Gupta, Kacie Brewer, and Olga Fermo



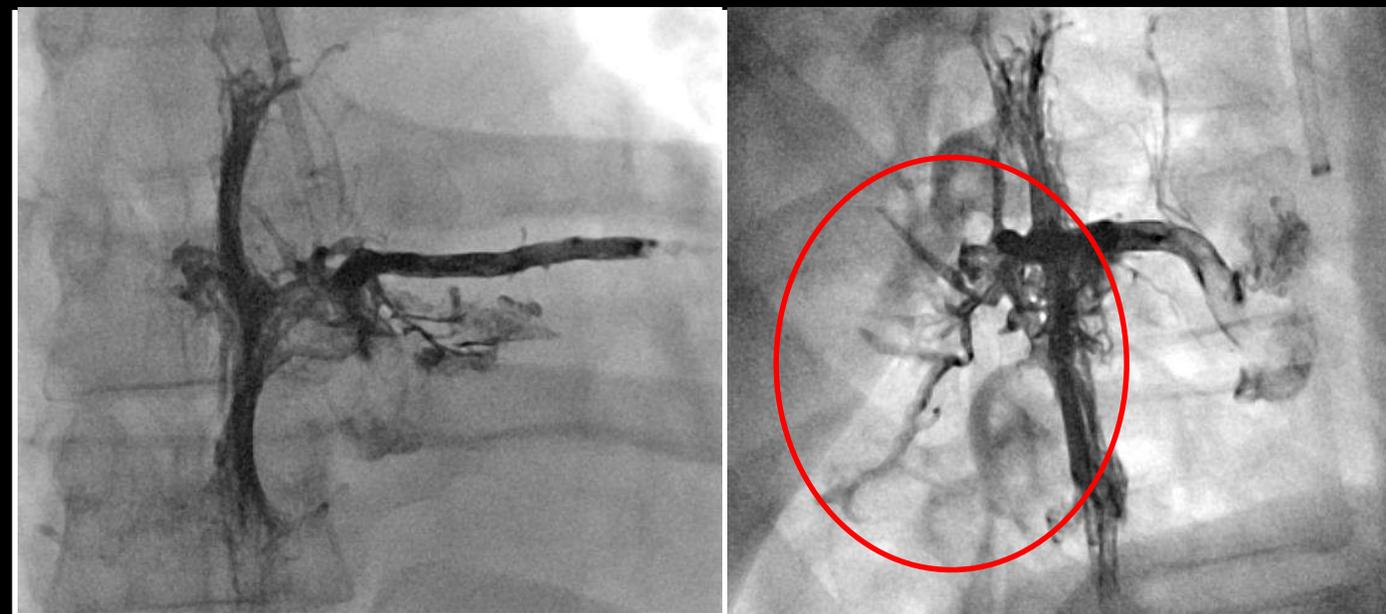
# ANATOMY OF CSF-VENOUS FISTULA & PARASPINAL VEINS



# Lateral/Oblique view helpful to identify posterior/muscular branch embolization



Left T10; no clinical or imaging response post embolization; additional CT fibrin glue patch with subsequent improvement



Left T8; expected rebound headache, resolution of orthostatic headache; improved brain MRI

# Dual-Microcatheter and Coil/Balloon Pressure Cooker Technique



JNIS  
Technical  
Video:



# Dual-Microcatheter and Coil/Balloon Pressure Cooker Technique

Dorsal muscular branch

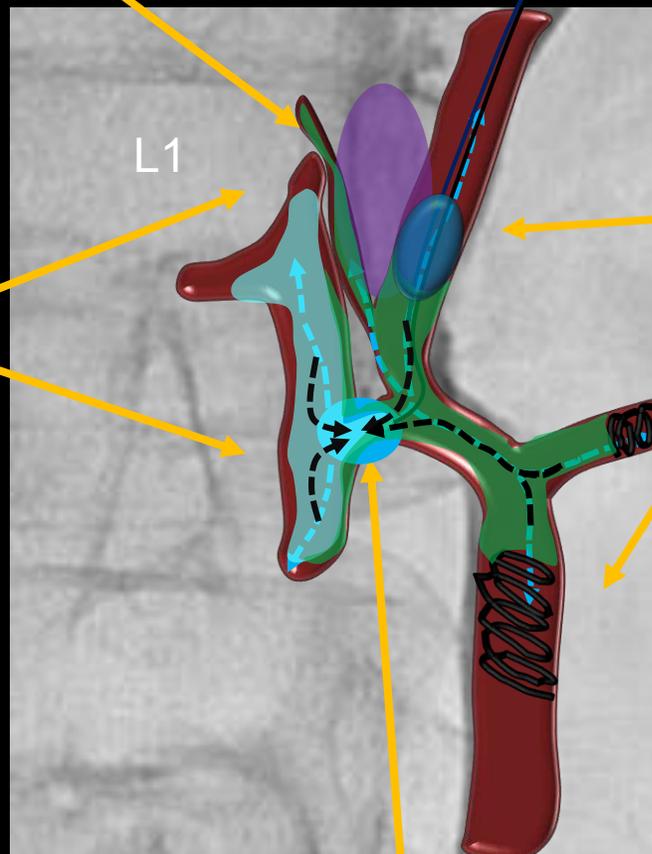
## 1) Application of Embolic Material

-Ensures high venous resistance (all lumbar intercostal arteries)

1) **Coil/Balloon** microcatheter  
 -We use **Onyx 34** at lateral epidural intersegmental veins (around the site of the fistula)  
 -Dual microcatheter enables switch to **Onyx 18** to embolize all exiting venous tributaries

2) **Coil/Balloon** microcatheter  
 -Ensures highest abance of embolizing the site of fistula

3) **Balloon** microcatheter  
 -Controls reflux: Saves time and embolic agent



Foraminal venous plexus

Ascending Lumbar vein

Lumbar vein

JNIS  
 Technical  
 Video:



AP

Horizontal epidural venous plexus

Lateral epidural venous plexus

Foraminal venous plexus

Proximal Ascending lumbar vein

Lumbar vein

Distal Ascending lumbar vein

Lateral-oblique

Dorsal muscular branch

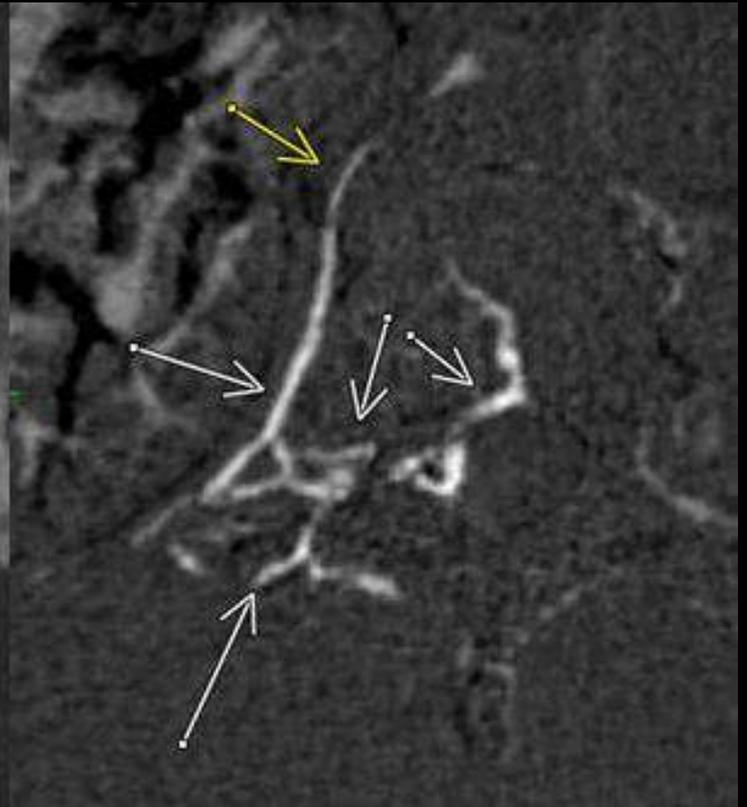
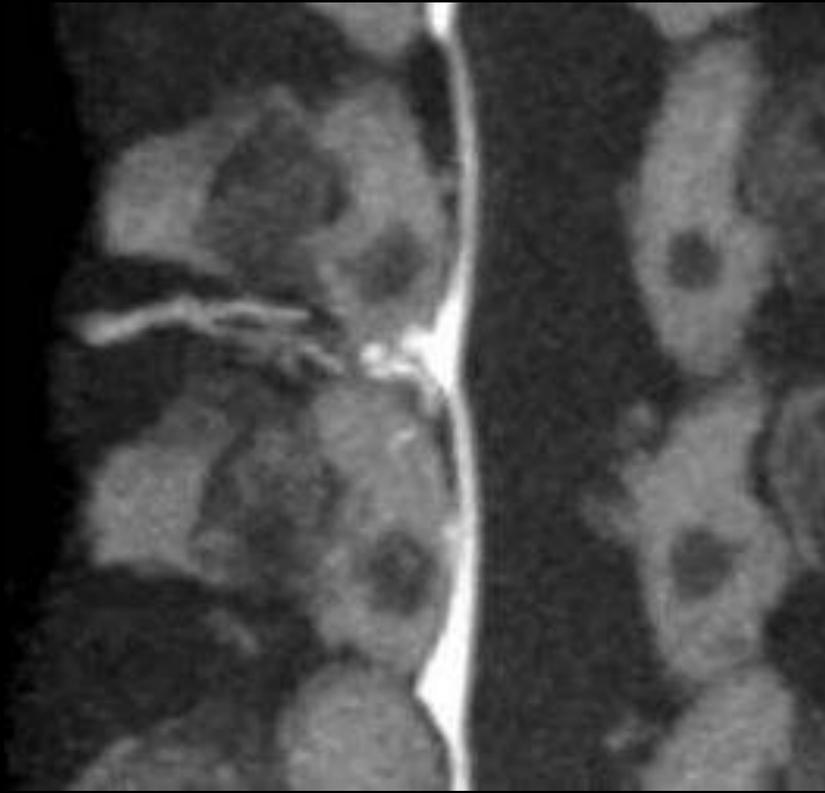
Lateral epidural venous plexus

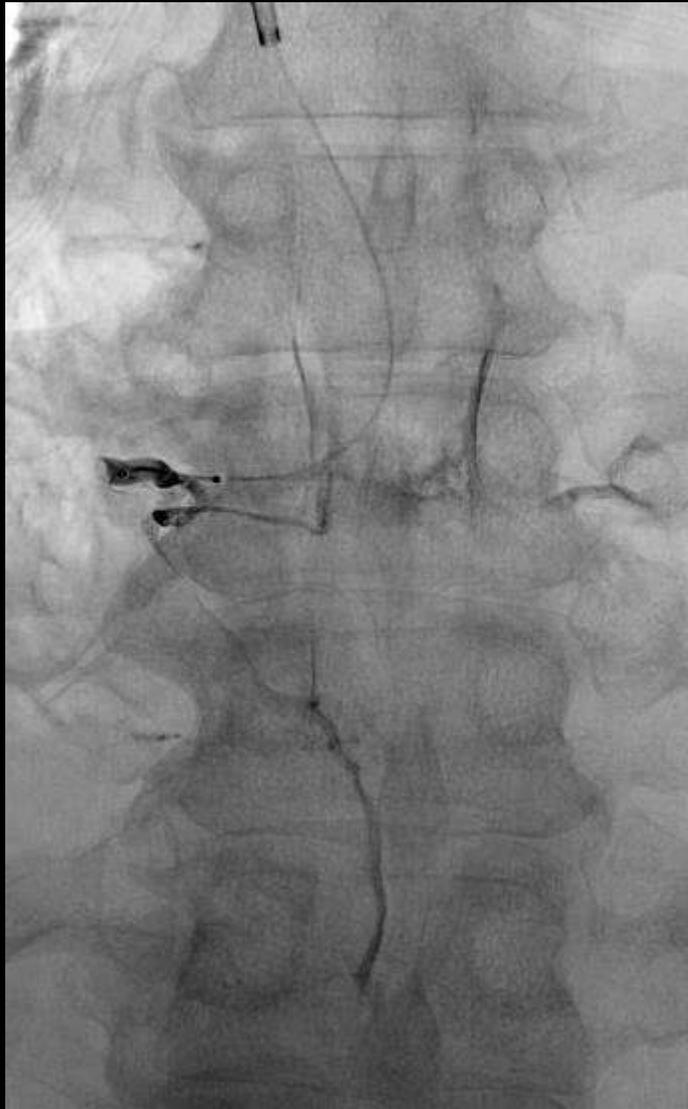
Foraminal venous plexus

# EFFECTIVE FOR COMPLEX FISTULAS

- 50F, daily orthostatic headaches and neck pain, progressive left upper and lower extremity weakness, numbness (since 2018)









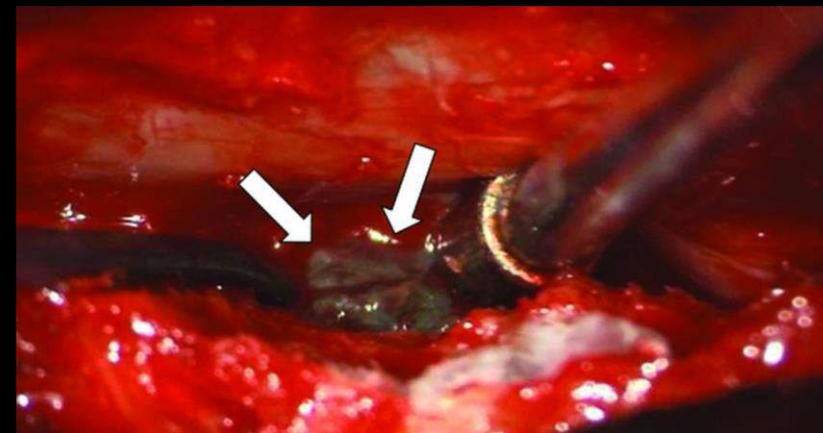
3-month follow-up  
imaging

Resolution of  
headaches and  
halted progression  
of myelopathy

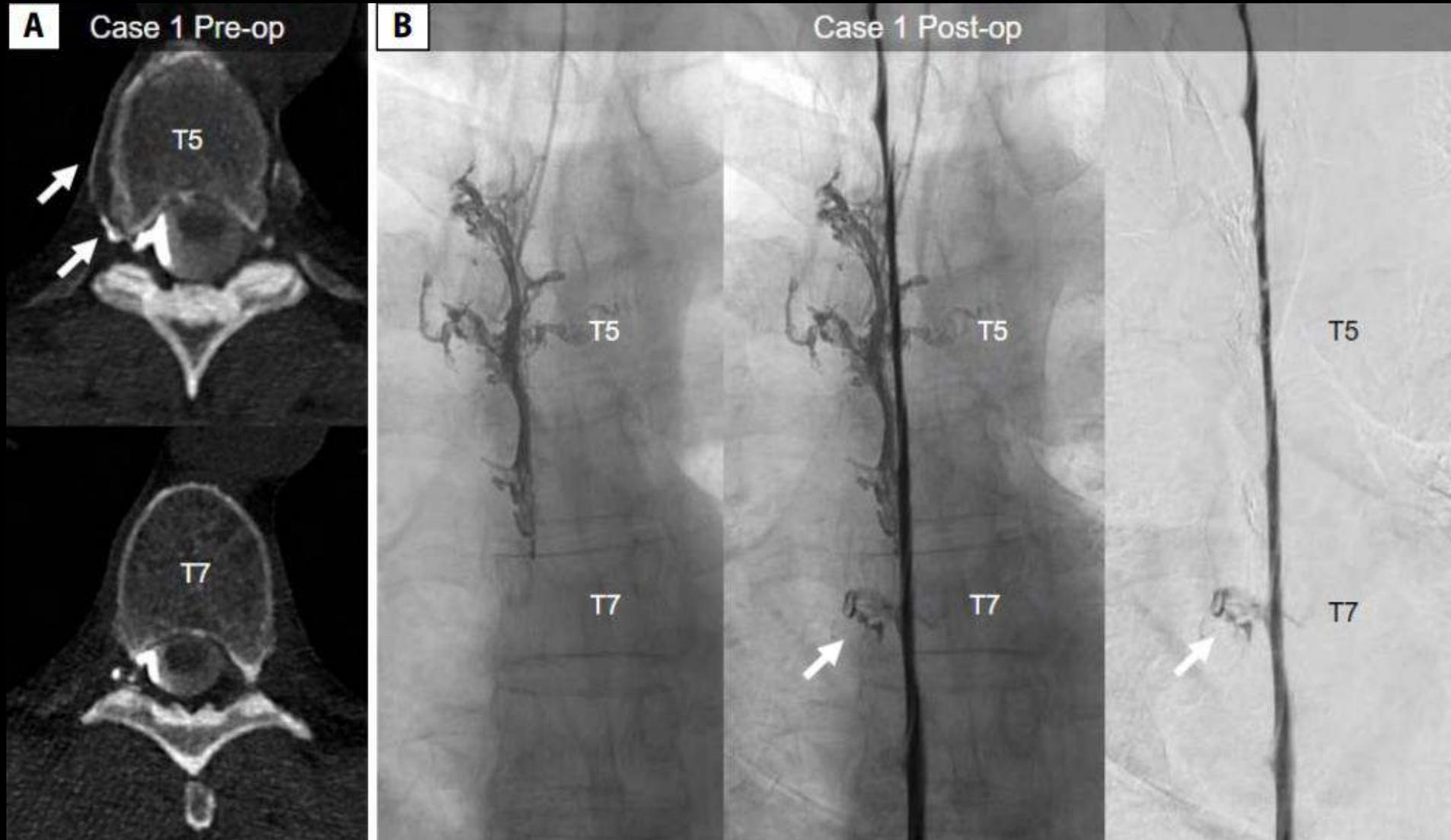


# PITFALLS/TREATMENT FAILURES

- Incomplete embolization
  - Surgery remains a viable treatment option post-embolization
    - Schievink AJNR 2022
- De novo CVF leak site

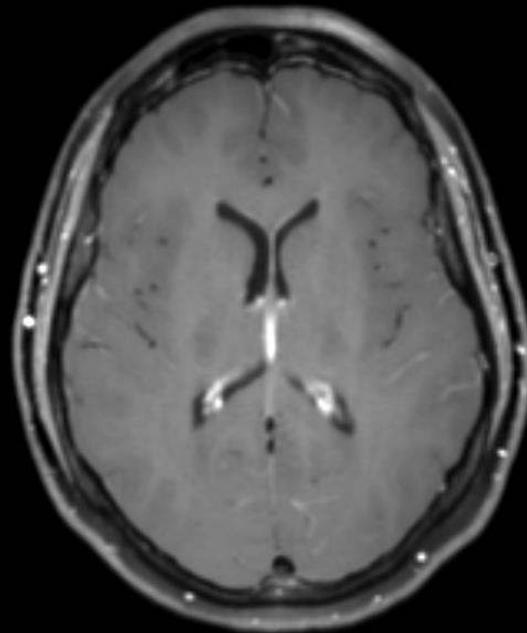
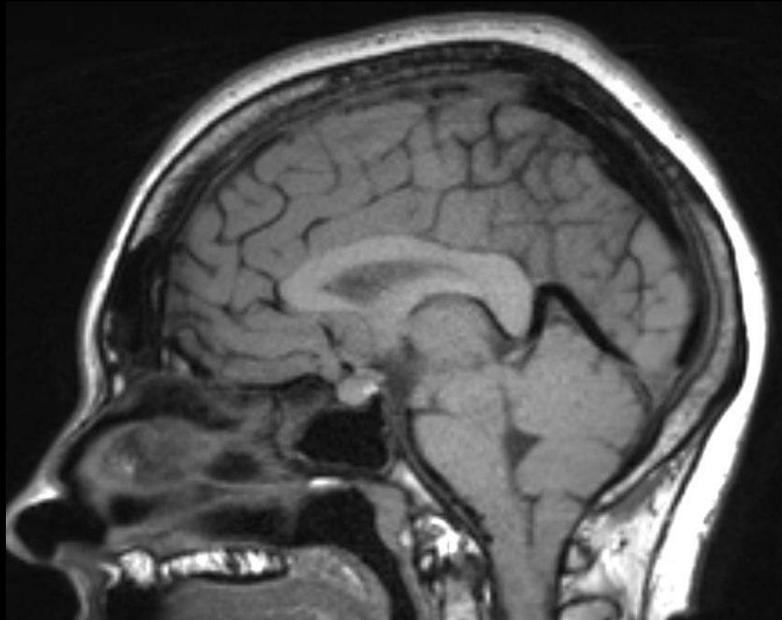


# New CVF at separate level (5 months)



# FINAL CASE

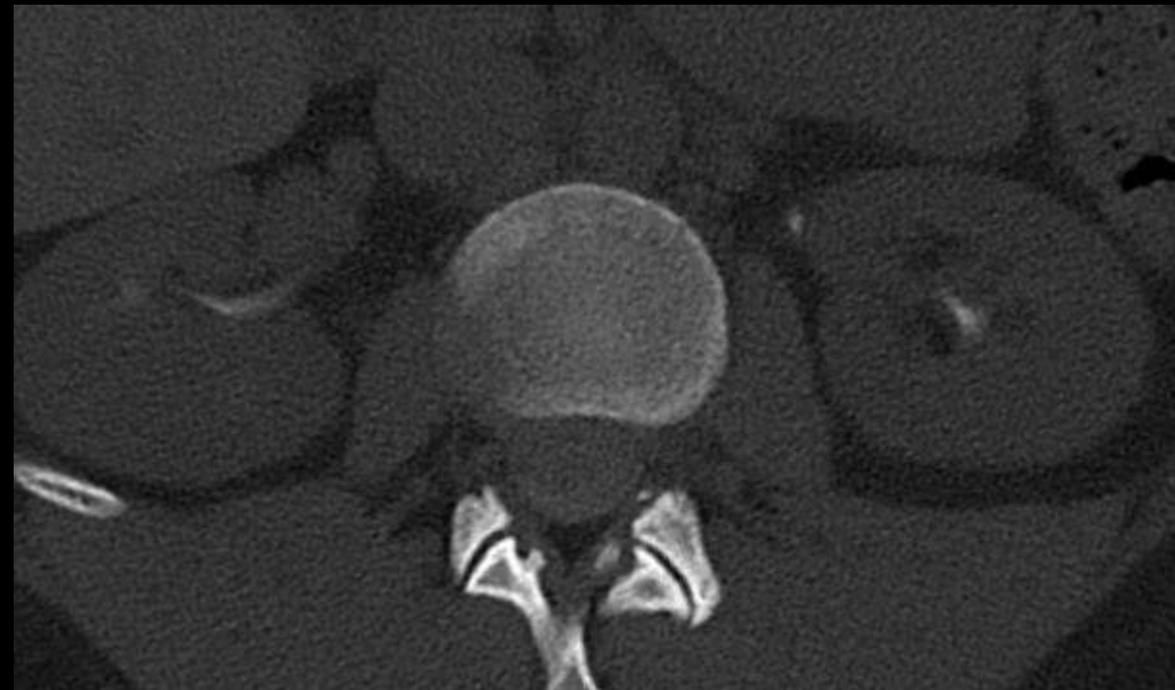
- 30 year-old woman with chronic intractable new persistent daily headaches for 3+ years



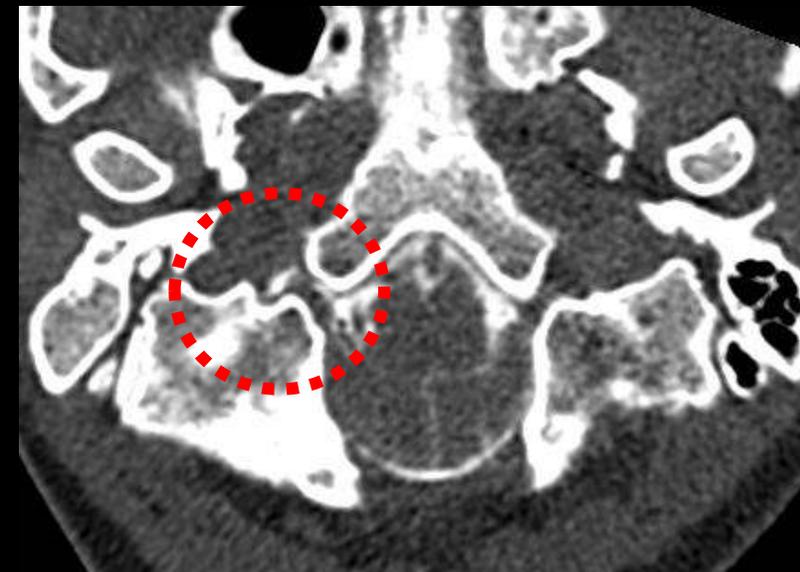
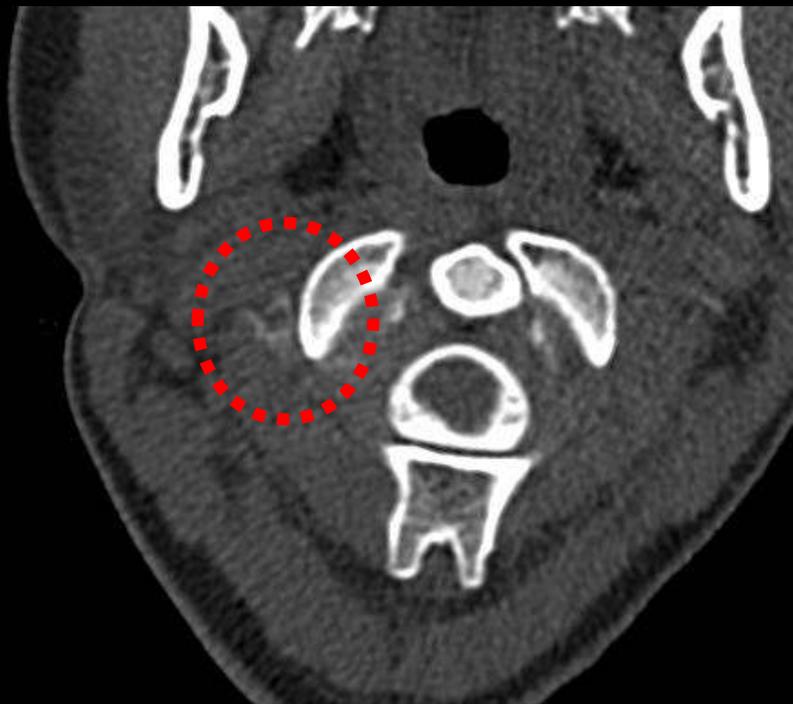
- Multiple lateral decubitus DSM, CTM (+ photon counting CT), MR+gad myelo negative for CVF
- Always + with early renal contrast excretion
- Multiple spinal epidural blood patches and fibrin patches performed without improvement in clinical or imaging features

# REPEAT SAME-DAY BILATERAL CTM

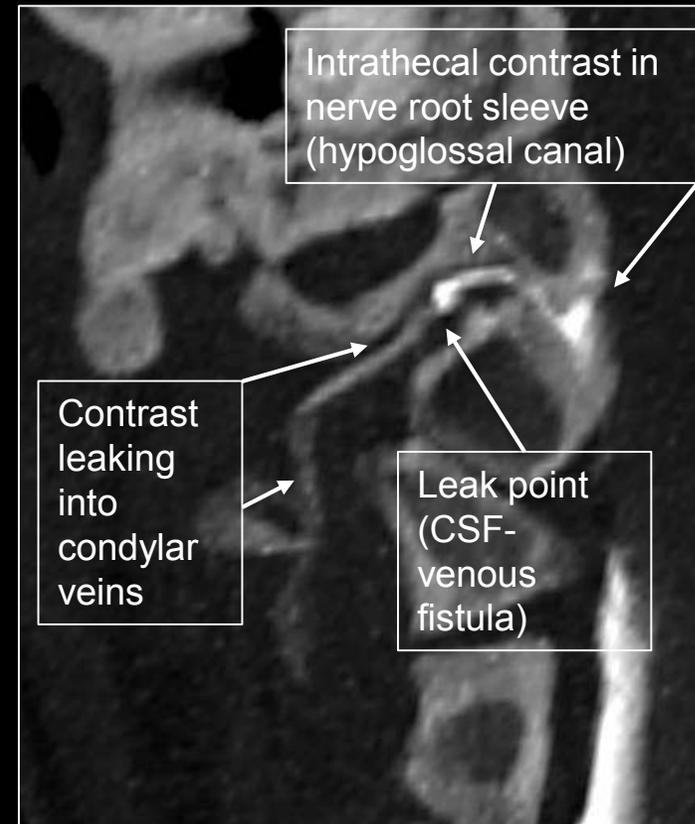
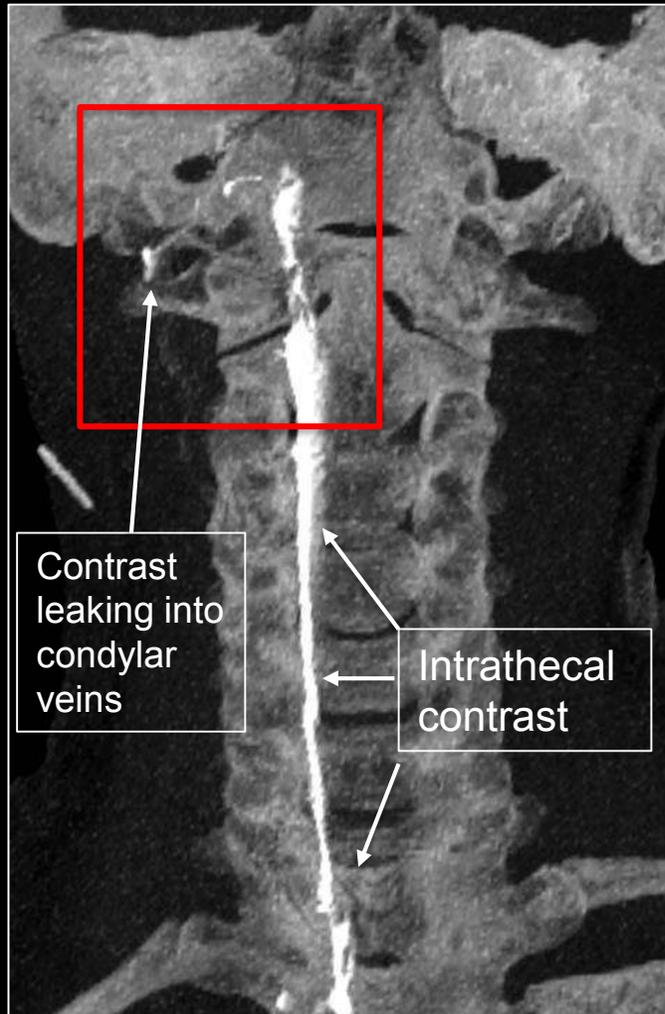
- Left side: negative
- Right side: extensive contrast leak prior to first injection; right-side injection negative



- Repeated left lateral injection (3<sup>rd</sup> injection)
- About to give up.... Finding?

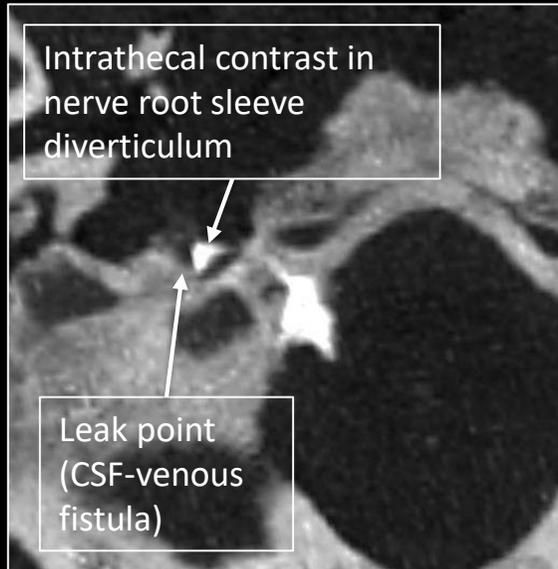


- Repeated dedicated right CTM
- Right anterior condylar confluence CSF-venous fistula (novel finding not previously reported in literature)

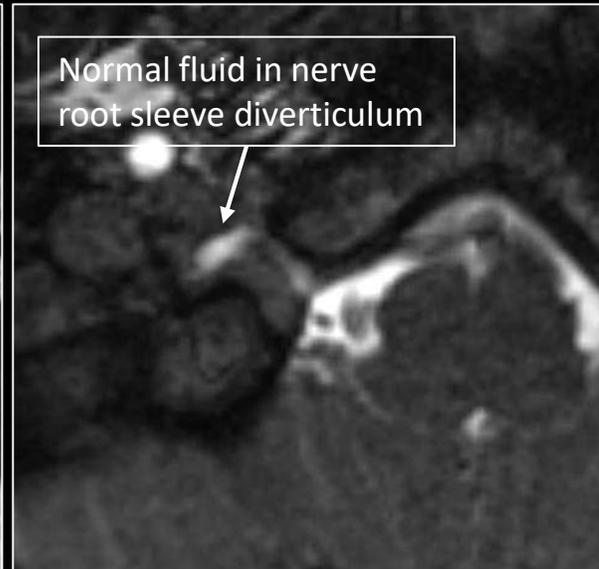


Magnified CTM coronal view (from red box)

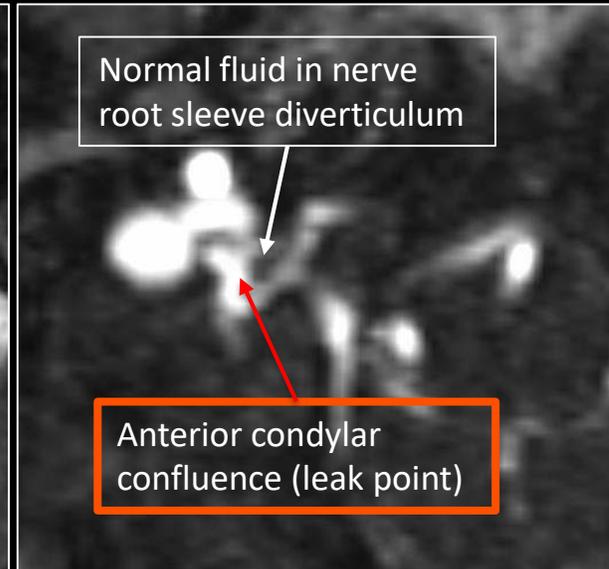
# Procedural Planning Anatomy: MRV Venous Mapping at same slice as T2 SPACE and CTM



Axial CTM

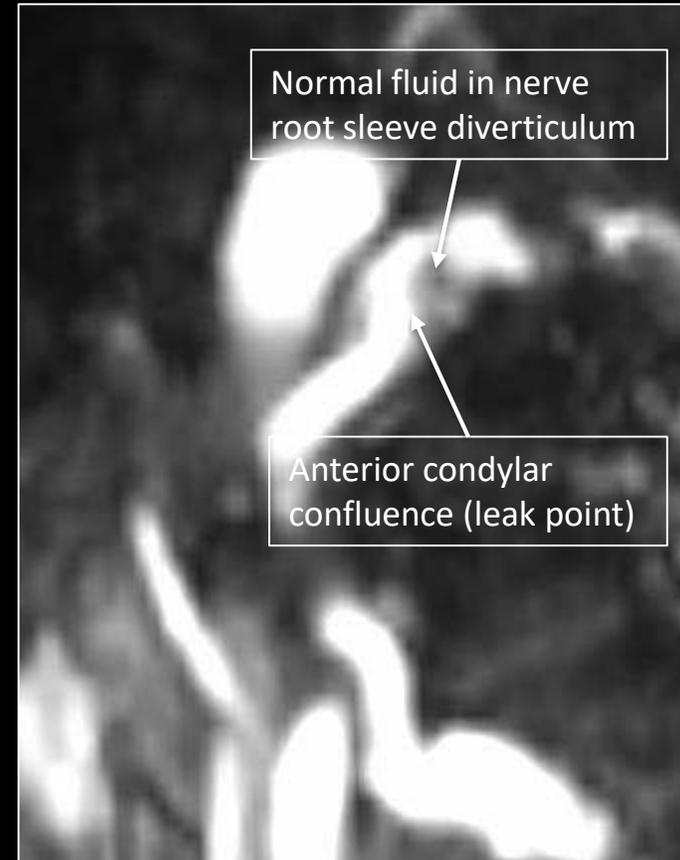
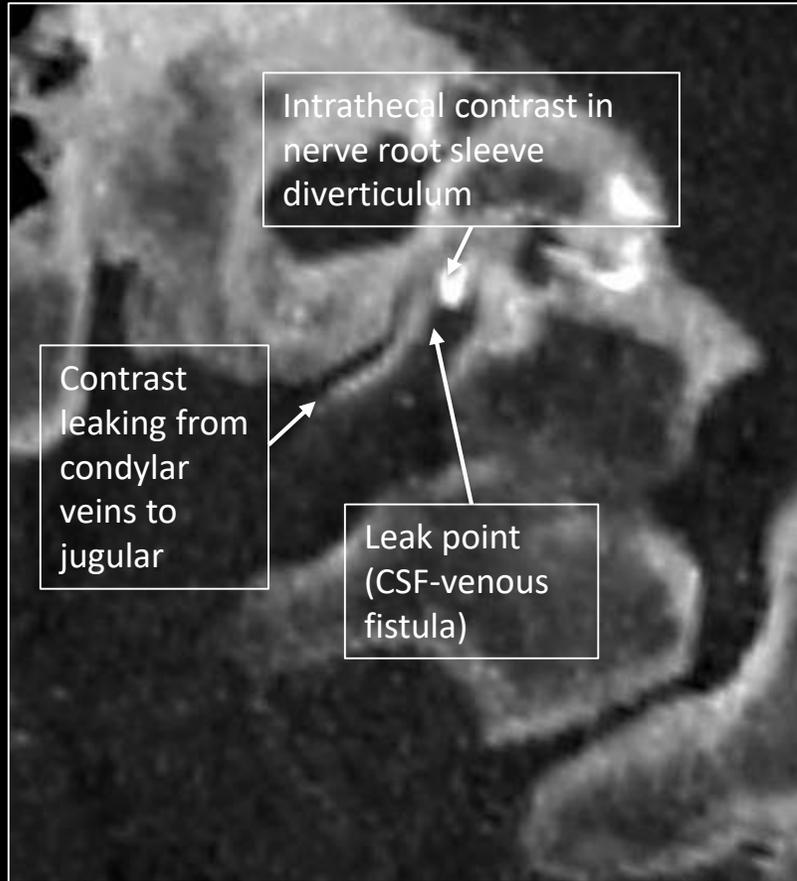


Axial T2 SPACE



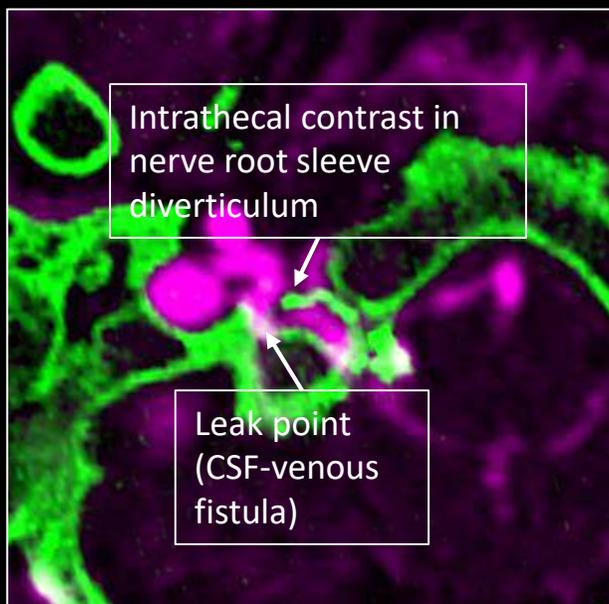
Axial MRV C+

# MRV Venous Mapping at same slice as CTM (Coronal)

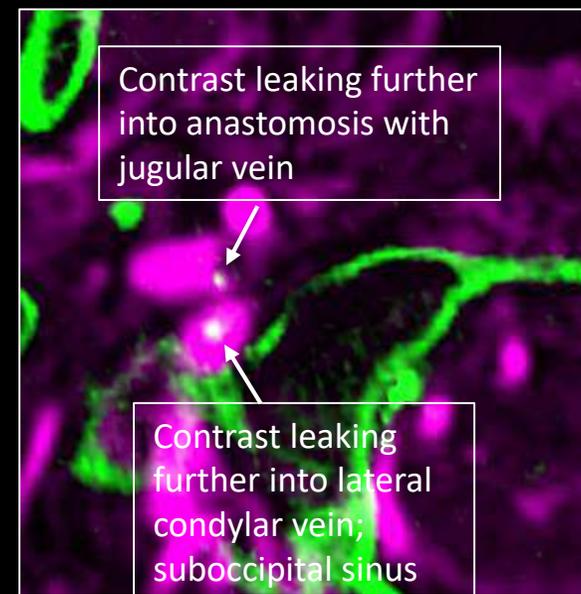
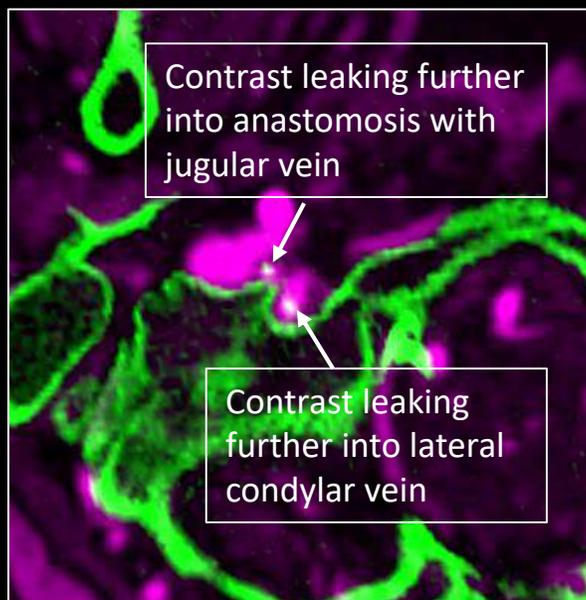


# Axial MRV C+ (Pink) overlaid with CTM (green)

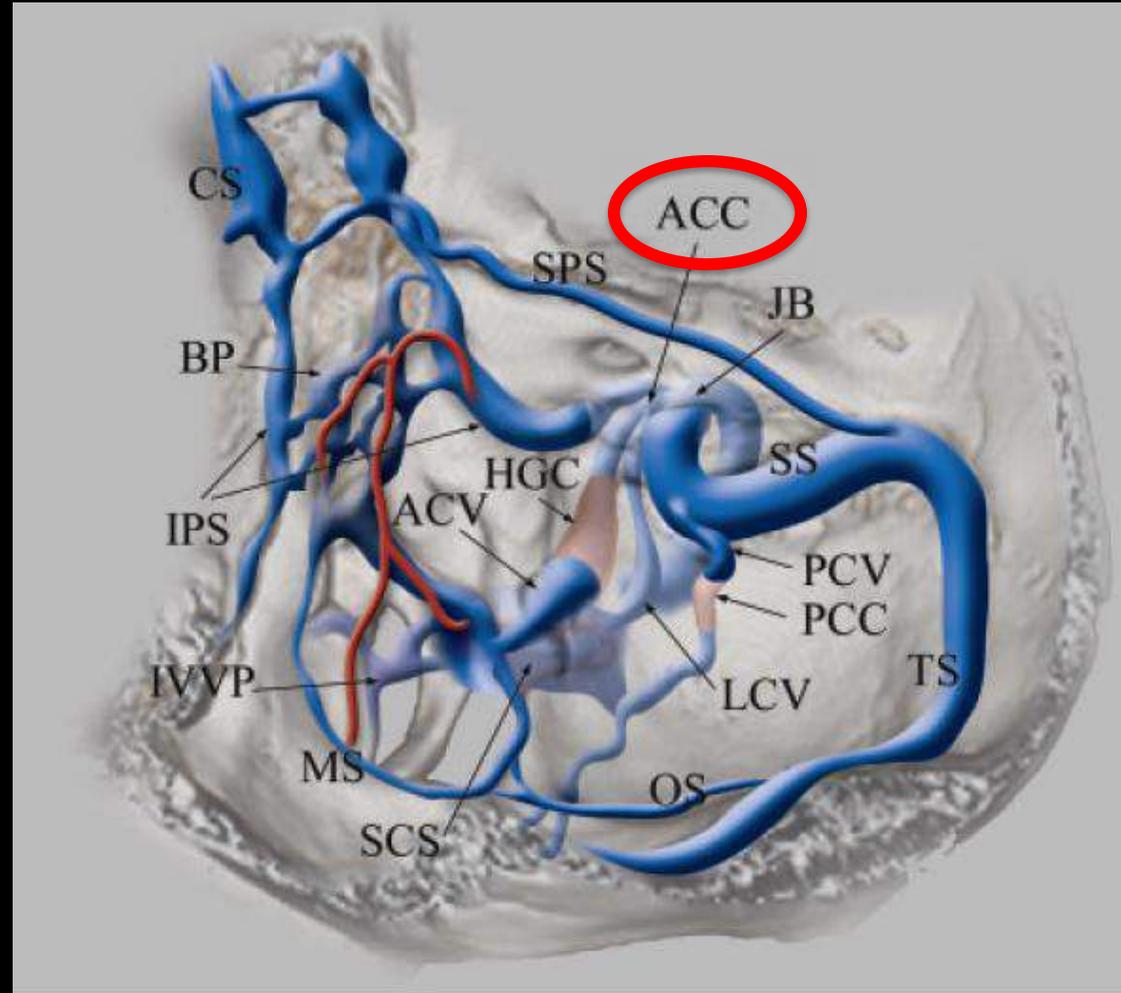
Superior



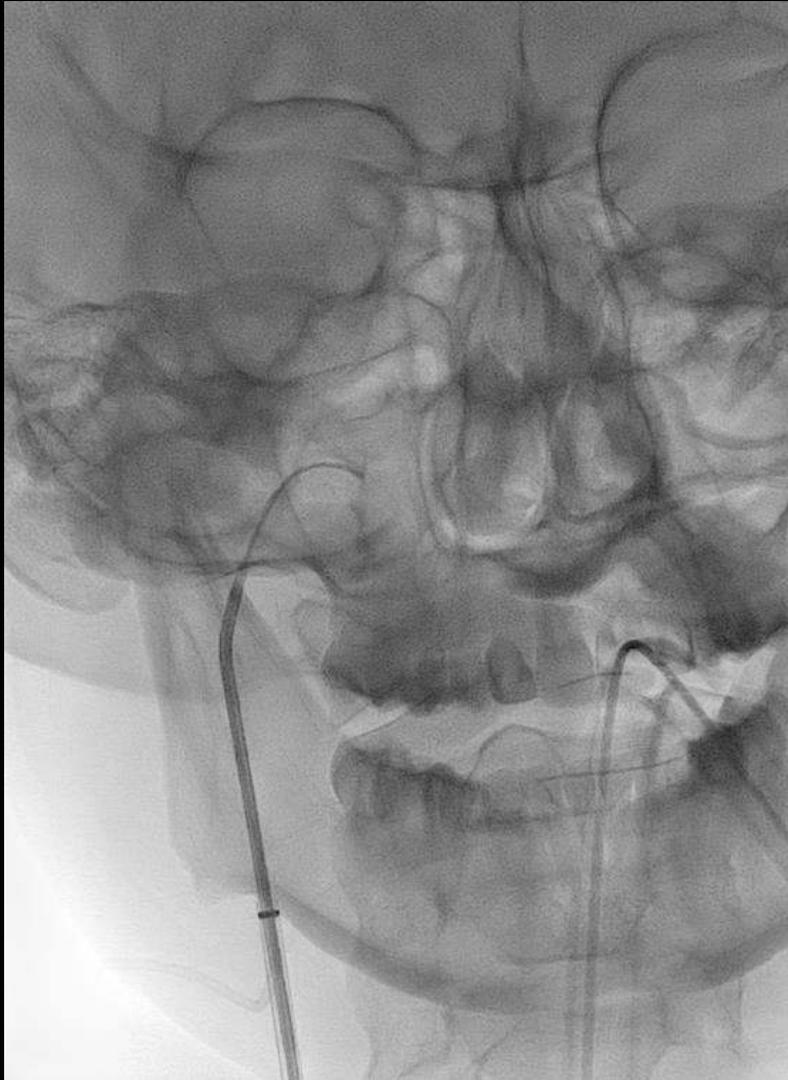
Inferior



# Target for embolization is Anterior Condylar Confluence (ACC)



## Navigation to anterior condylar confluence



Angiography performed including rotational angio showing anterior condylar confluence and adjacent tributaries.

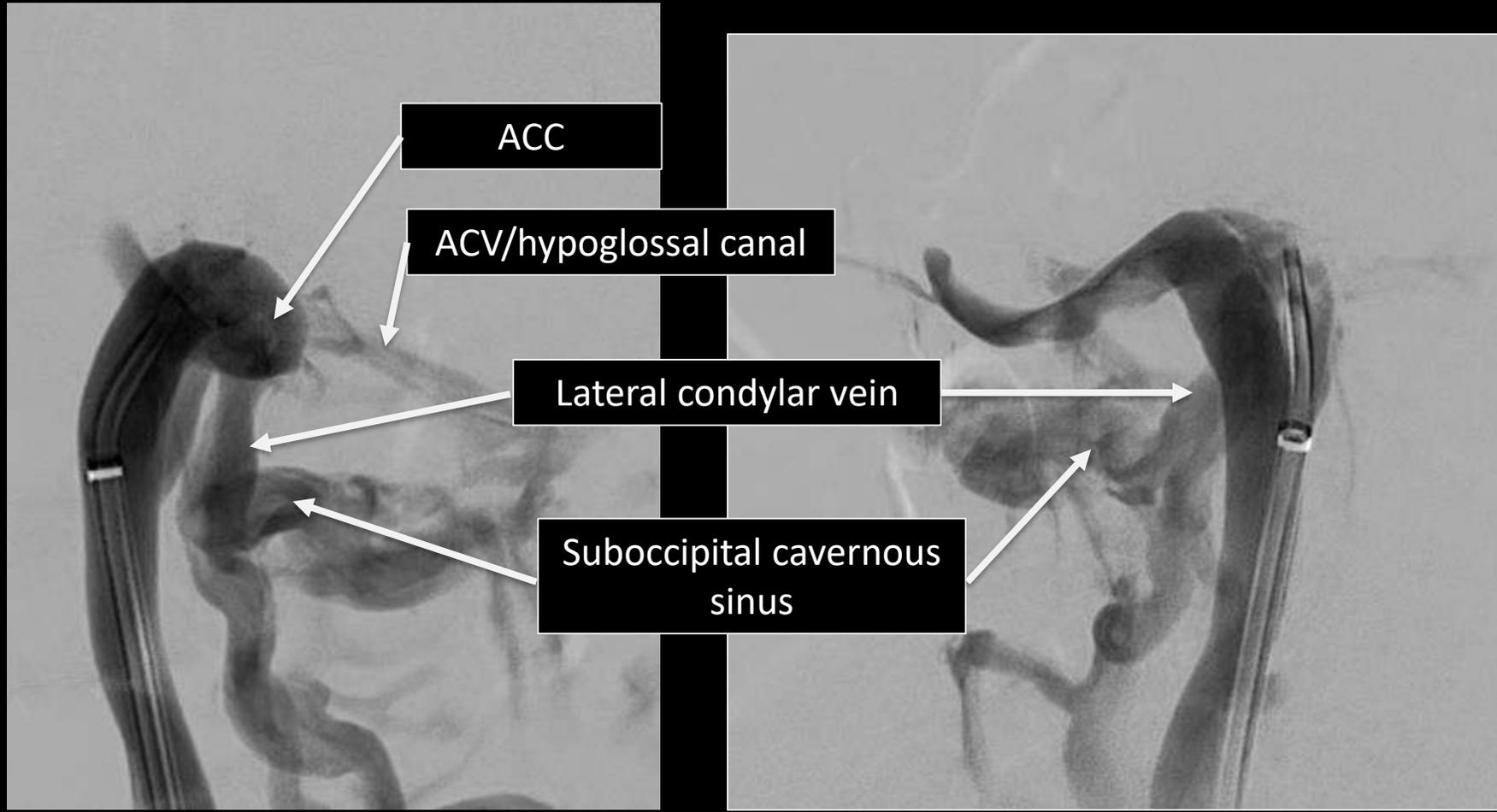


AP



Lateral

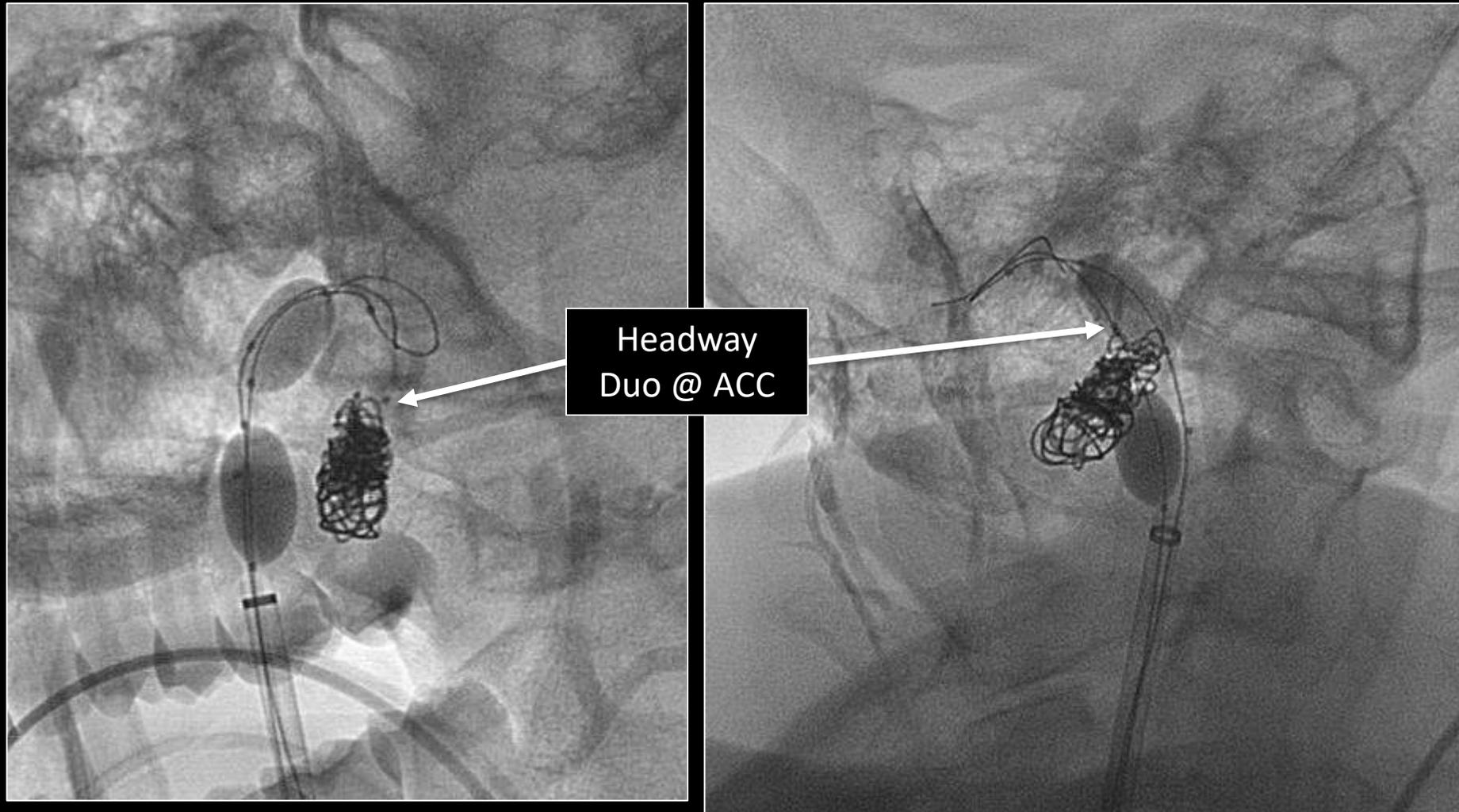
Working projection views demonstrating  
ACC (target) and adjacent tributaries



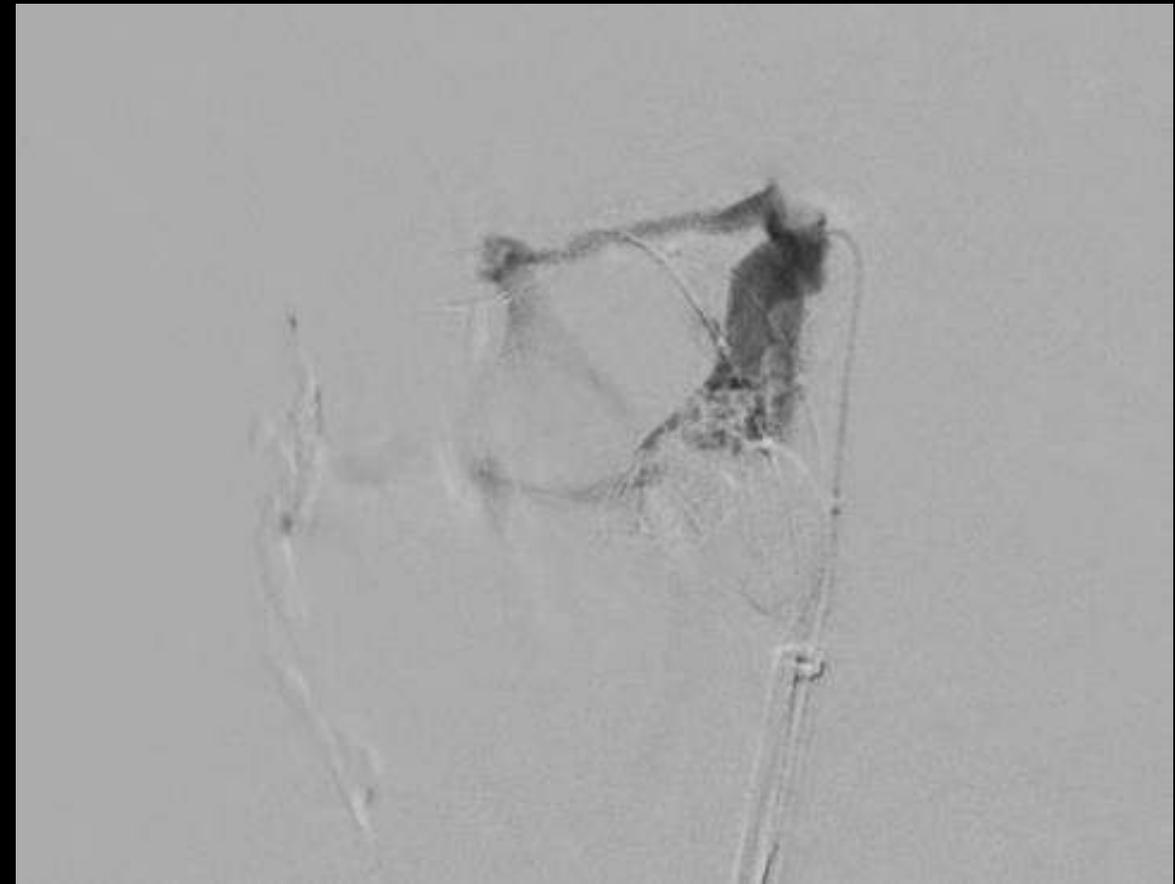
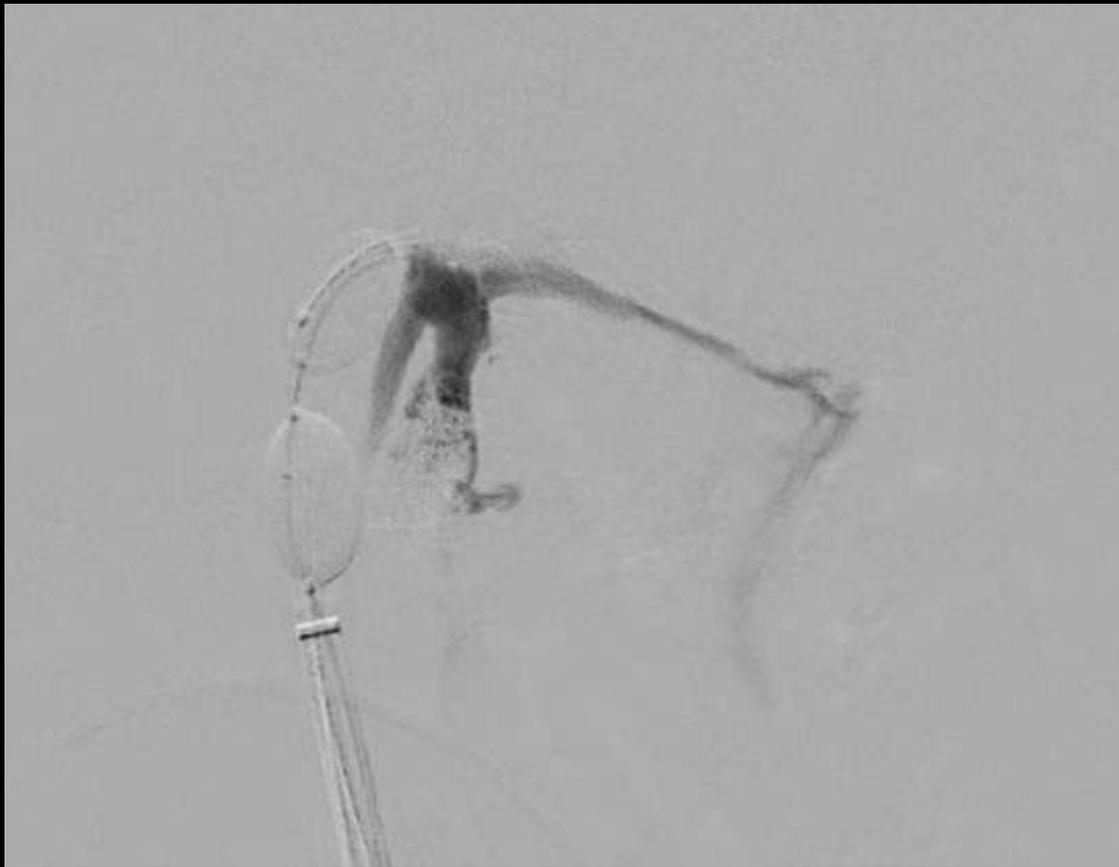
LAO

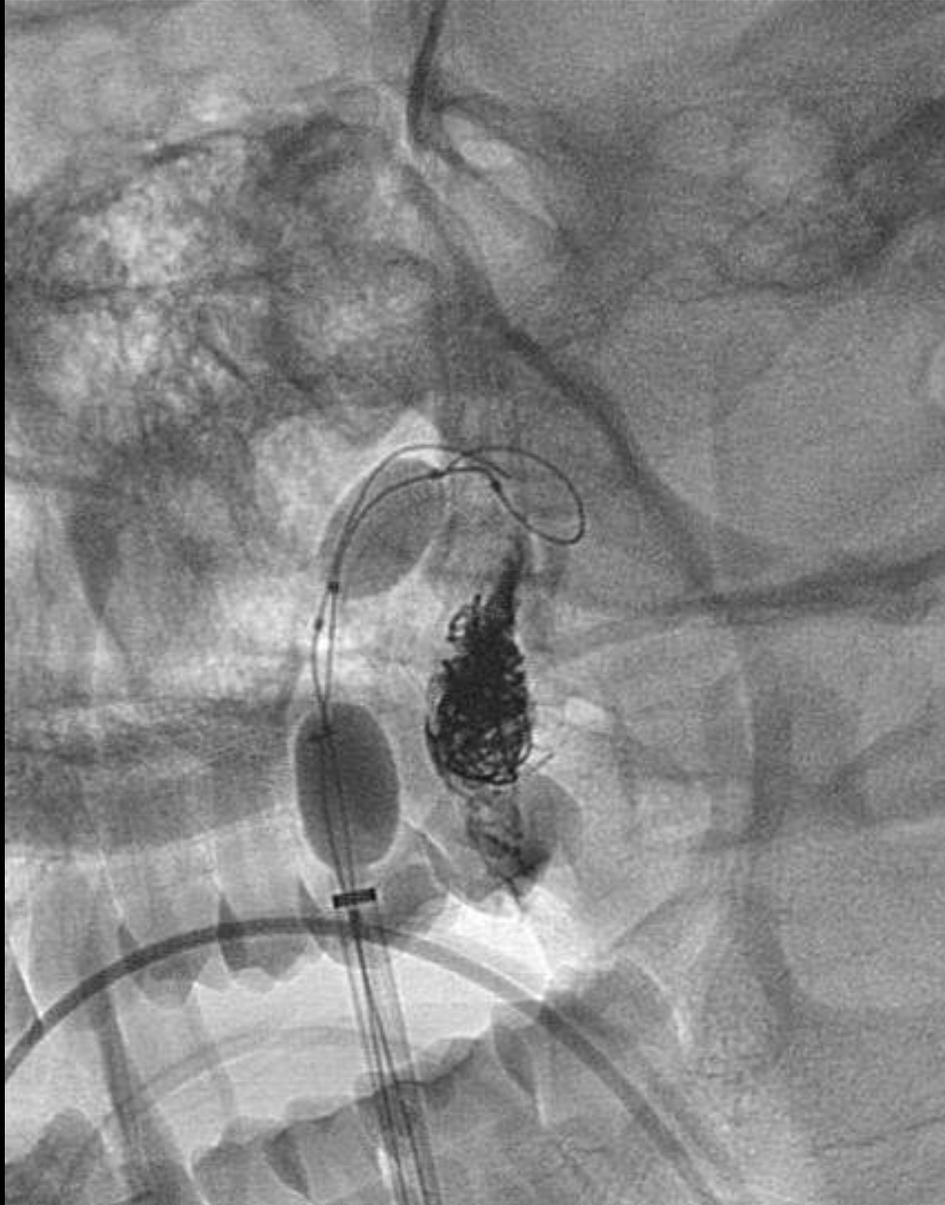
Lateral  
Oblique

- 1) Coils deployed in Lateral condylar vein to prevent Onyx reflux from ACC
- 2) Balloons deployed in jugular to prevent additional reflux (needed 2x to be sure)
- 3) Headway duo tip positioned in ACC (confirmed with XperCT)



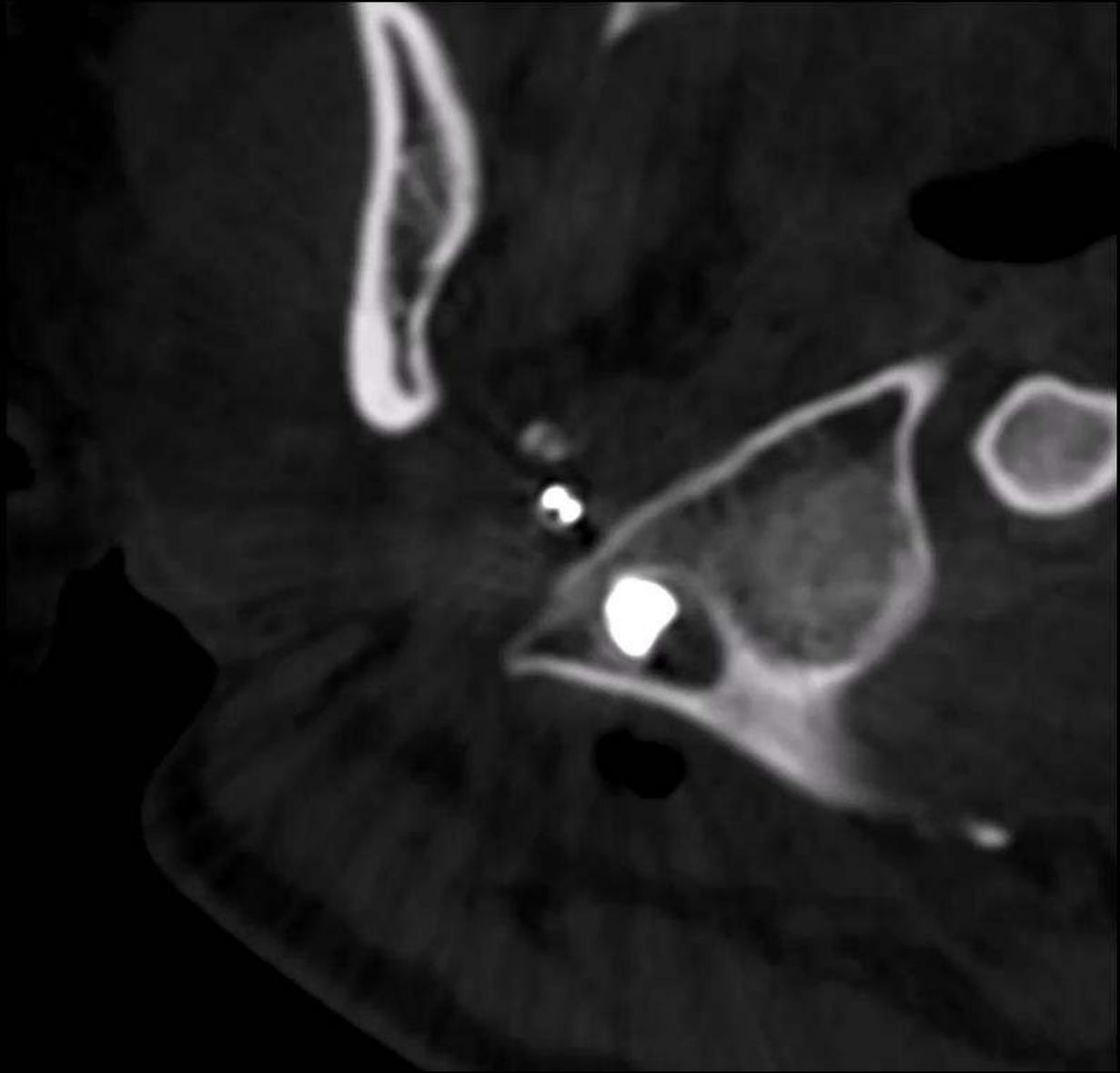
Headway Duo microcatheter injection confirming position at ACC and suitable for embolization





# Final Onyx 34 Embolization cast



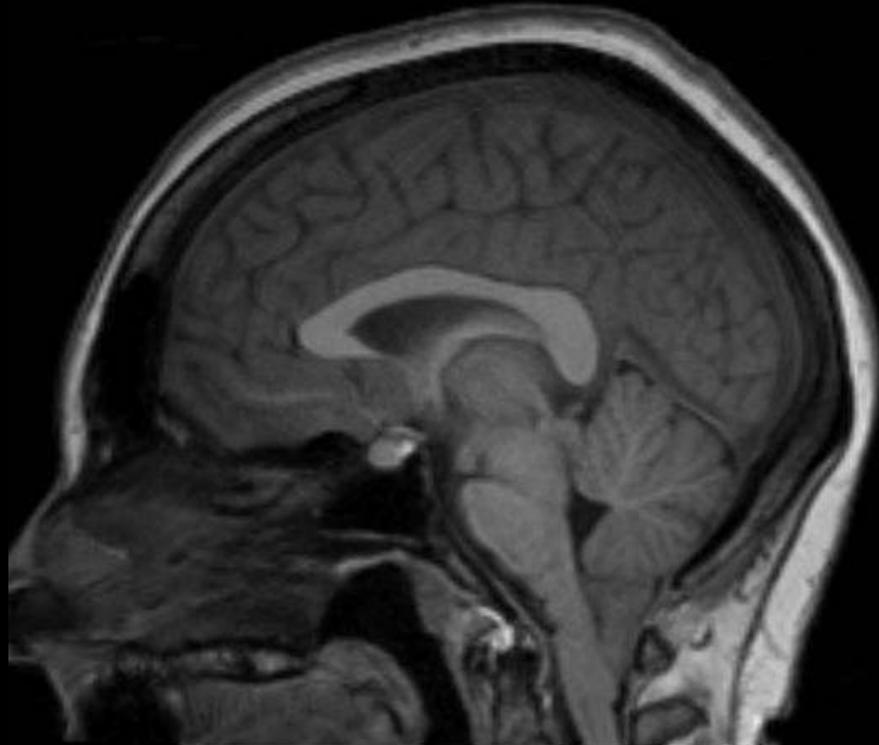


Initial diplopia/rebound headache controlled with Diamox  
Transient mild tongue deviation 1-month

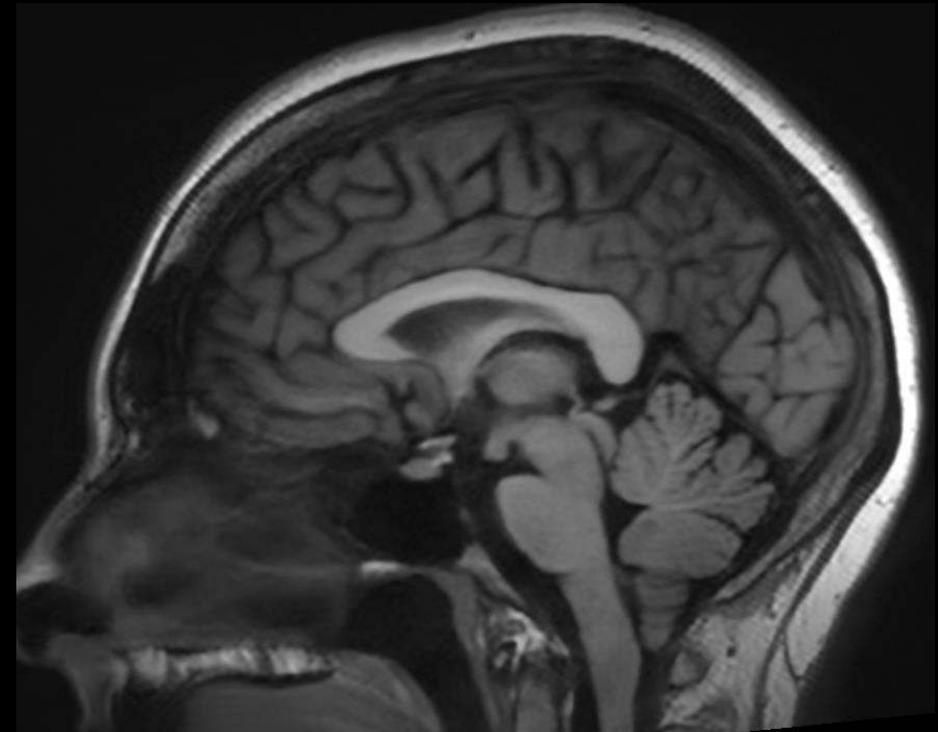
2 month & 5-month follow up:

Complete resolution of orthostatic headaches

Markedly improved quality of life back to work/baseline (very much improved)

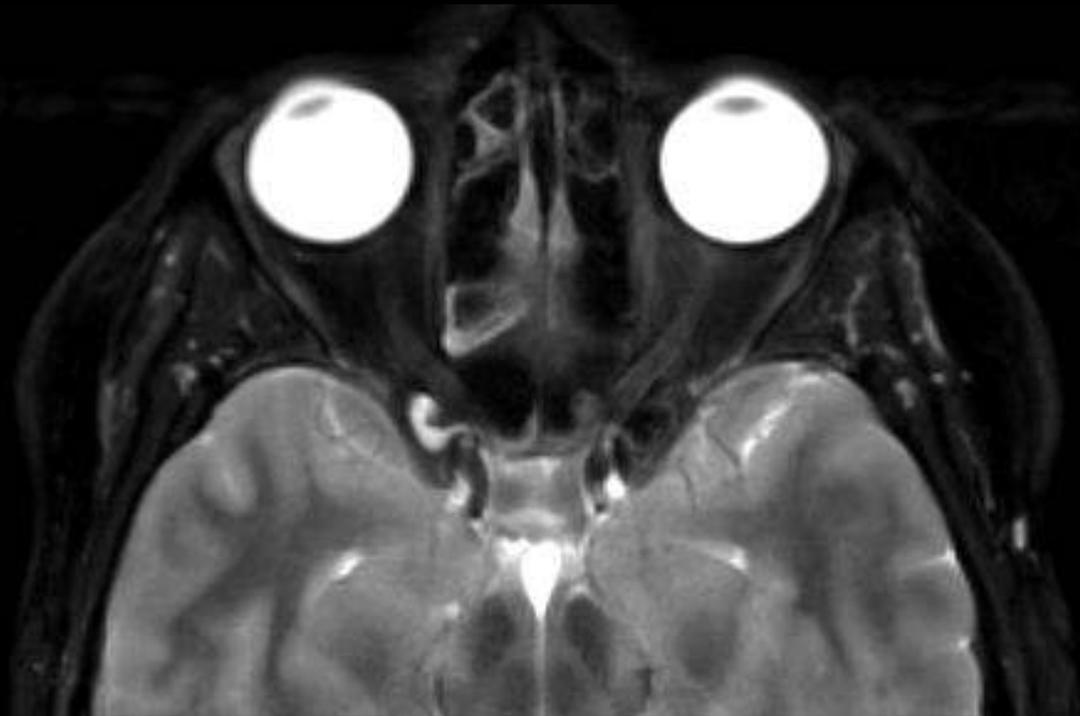


Baseline  
sagittal T1

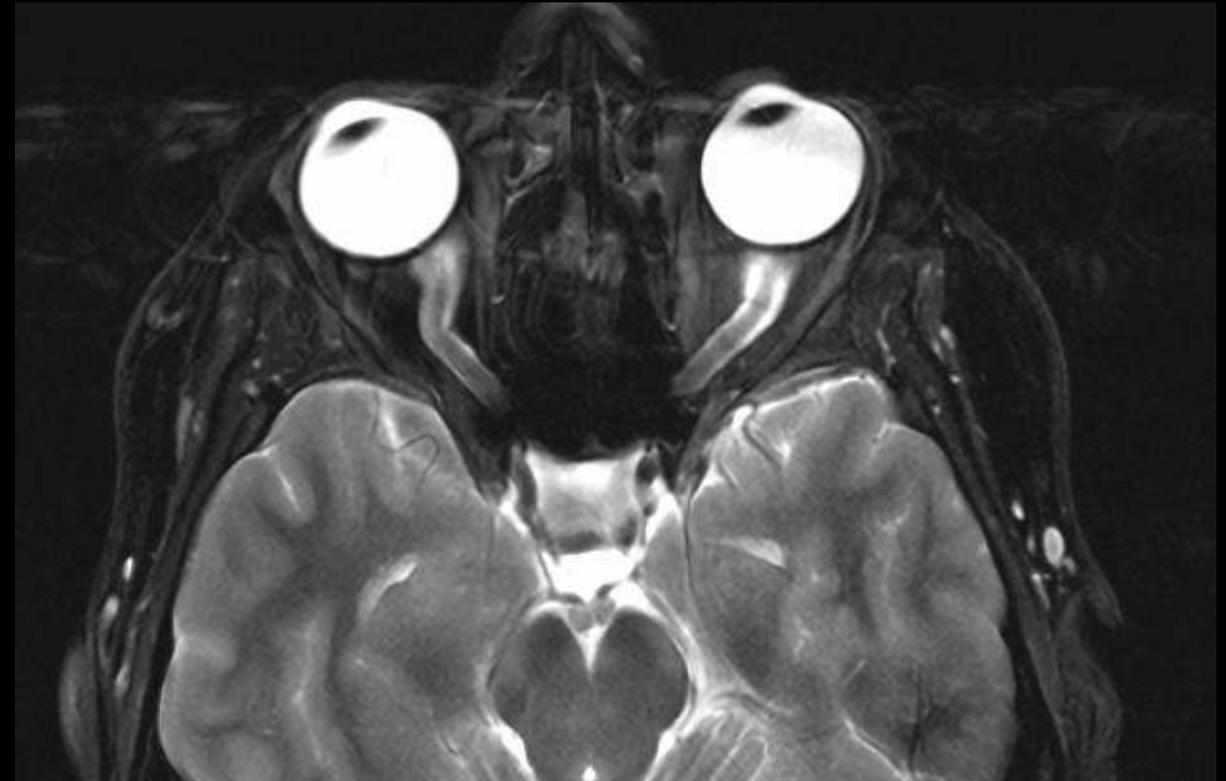


2-month & 5-month  
follow-up

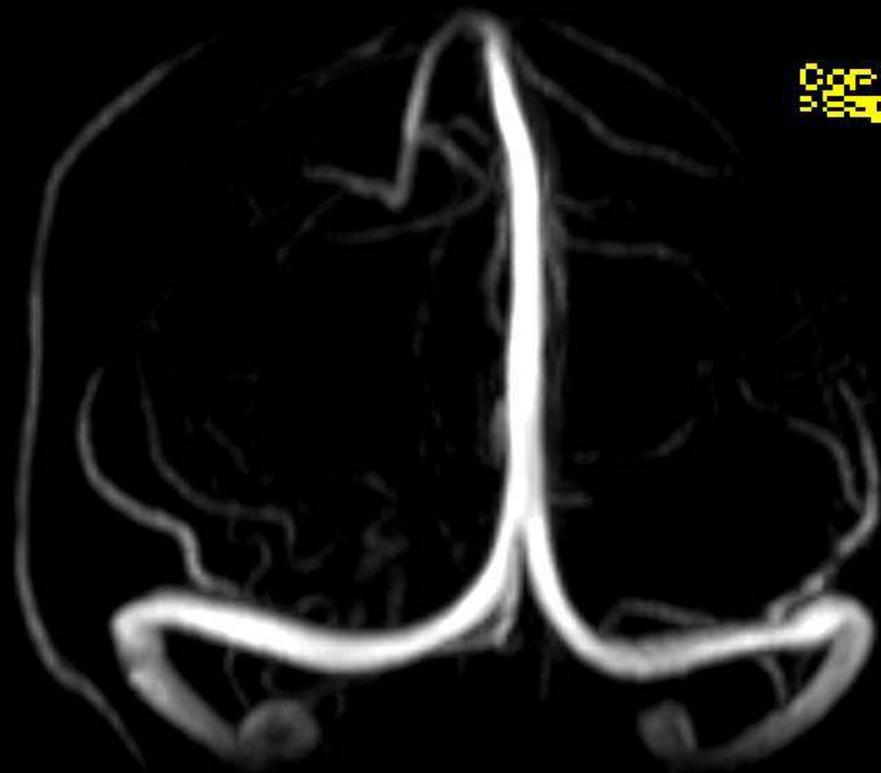
Normal intra-ocular pressures and neuro-ophtho exam at 1-month follow-up



Baseline  
Axial T2



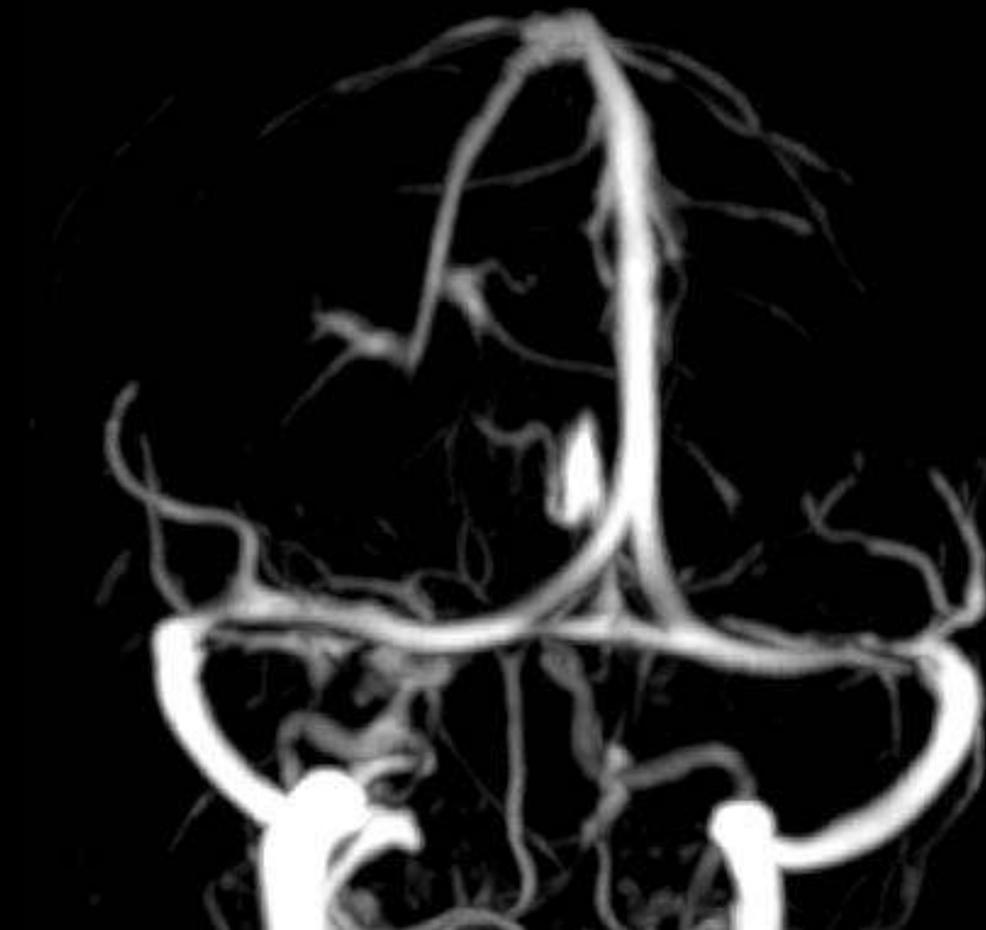
2-month & 5-  
month follow-up



Case Tra -15  
5/20/20



Baseline  
MRV



5-month  
follow-up

# CONCLUSIONS

“Patients and their health care providers are fortunate that the armamentarium for treating spontaneous spinal CSF-venous fistula is expanding.” Schievink AJNR 2022

- Transvenous embolization has high efficacy and safety and can be considered a durable first-line treatment for SIH patients with CVF
- Efficacy comparable to surgical ligation; appear to be superior to fibrin for a single treatment (operator dependent?)
- Technical nuances - thorough embolization required to avoid treatment failure (pressure-cooker technique)
- Opportunities for multicenter training/collaboration in this new frontier to improve patient care

**THANK YOU!**

**Questions?**

**[huynh.thien@mayo.edu](mailto:huynh.thien@mayo.edu)**

**@ThienHuynh15**

# Fibrin Glue Patching for CSF-Venous Fistulas: What We've Learned in Our First 100 Patients

Mark Mamlouk, MD

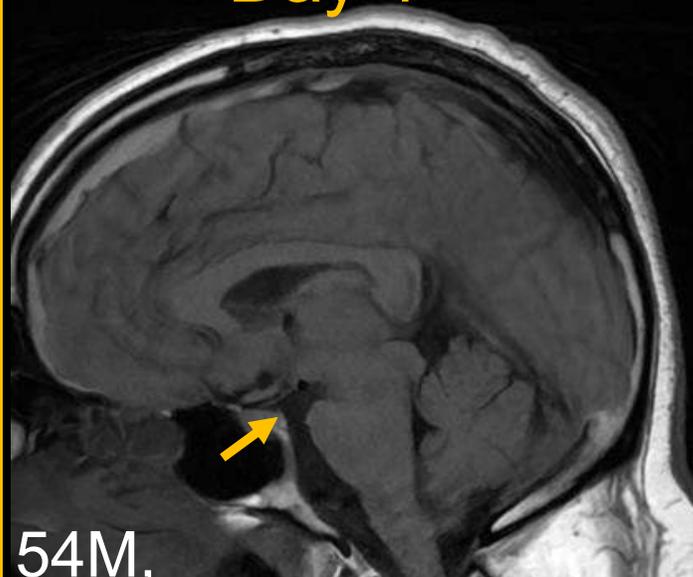
Neuroradiology Lead, TPMG  
Director of Spinal CSF Leak Program  
*Kaiser Permanente, Santa Clara, CA*

Associate Clinical Professor – Volunteer  
*University of California, San Francisco*



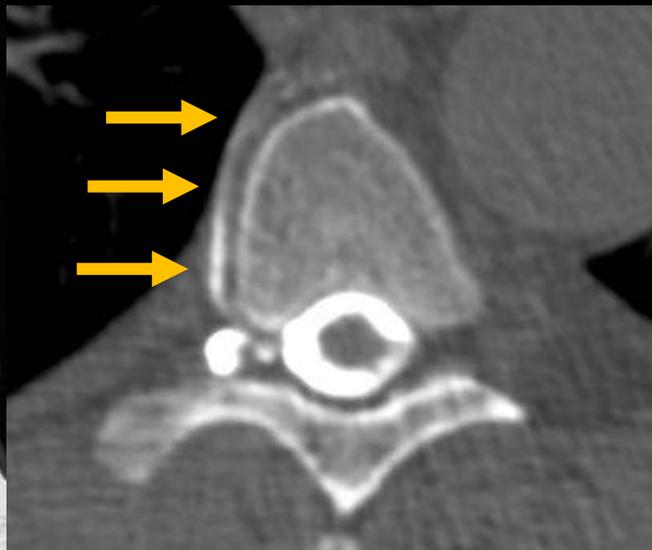
# Ease & Efficiency of Glue

Day 1



54M,  
ICU

Day 2

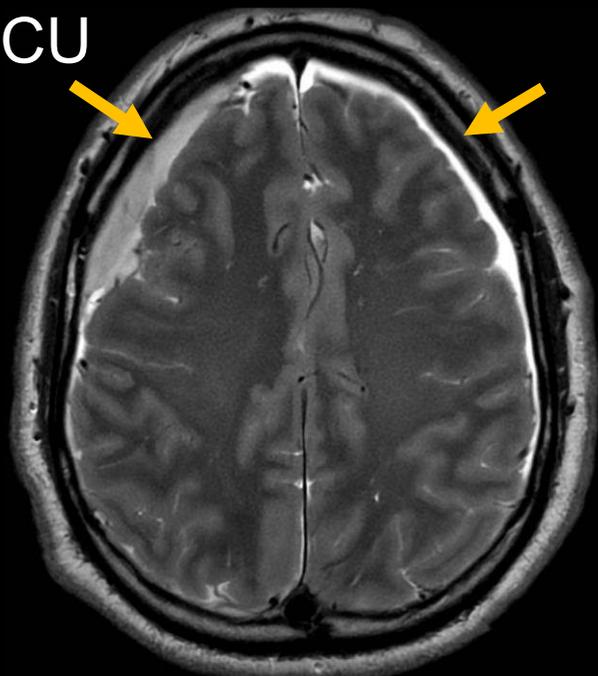


R T6 CVF

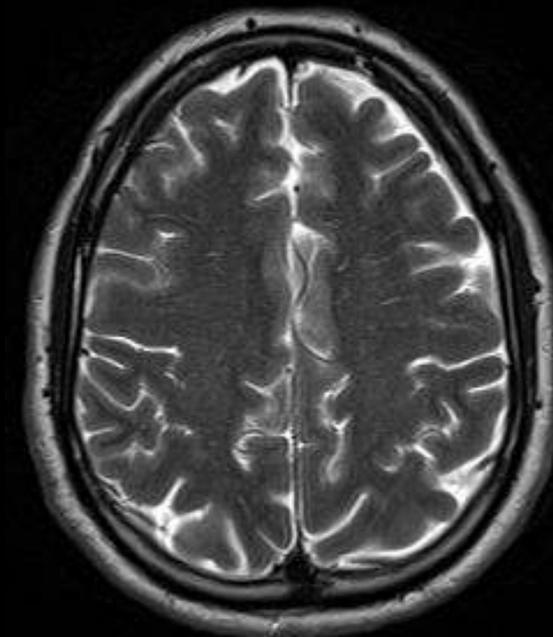
Day 3



Normal F/up MRI



Fibrin Glue



# Our Spinal Leak Journey

1

CVF Fibrin  
Patching  
Technique

2

3 Technical Tips  
for Success

3

Additional fibrin  
glue patching  
opportunities

# Our Spinal Leak Journey

1

CVF Fibrin  
Patching  
Technique

2

3 Technical Tips  
for Success

3

Additional fibrin  
glue patching  
opportunities

# CVF Fibrin Glue Patching Technique

1

Prone CT and scan at CVF level

2

Place 1-2 20g spinal needles along CVF course

3

Test dose with 0.2-0.5 cc air (or iodine) contrast

4

Add 0.2 cc contrast into both hubs of glue

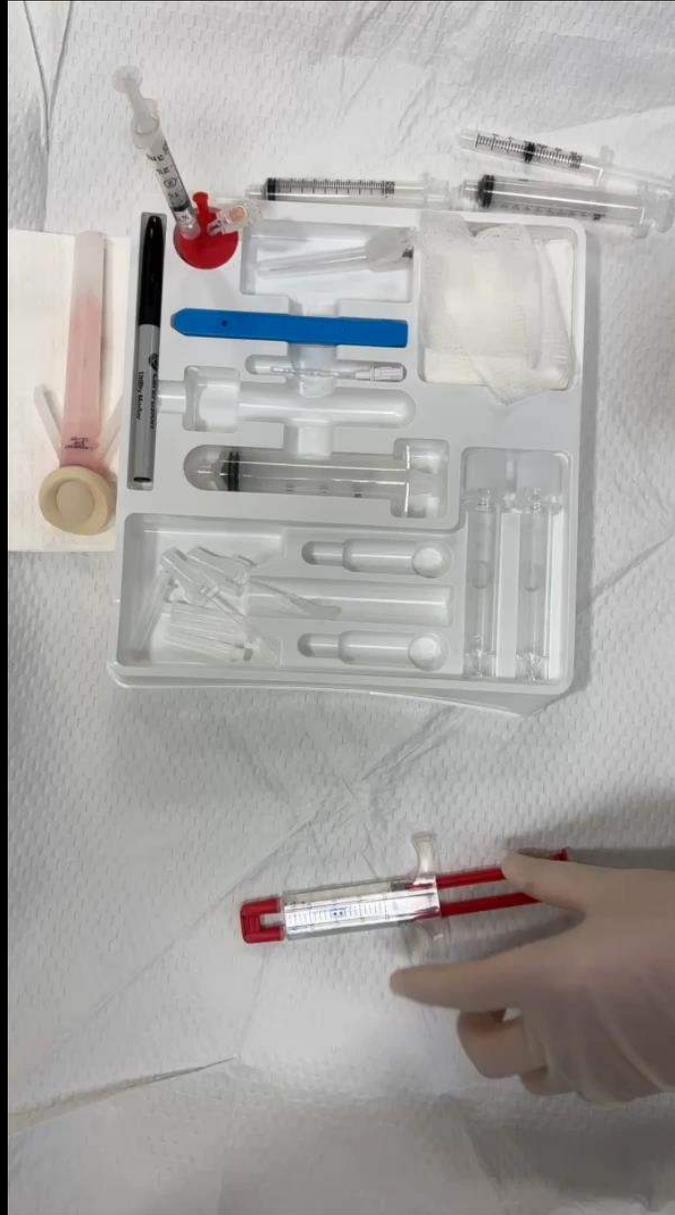
5

Inject 1-2 cc of fibrin glue. Scan. Inject 1-2 cc more, if needed.

*Conscious sedation*

*Administer Benadryl*

# Fibrin Glue Preparation & Injection



# Our Spinal Leak Journey

1

CVF Fibrin  
Patching  
Technique

2

3 Technical Tips  
for Success

3

Additional fibrin  
glue patching  
opportunities

# 3 Tips for CVP Fibrin Glue Patching



Location  
Location  
Location

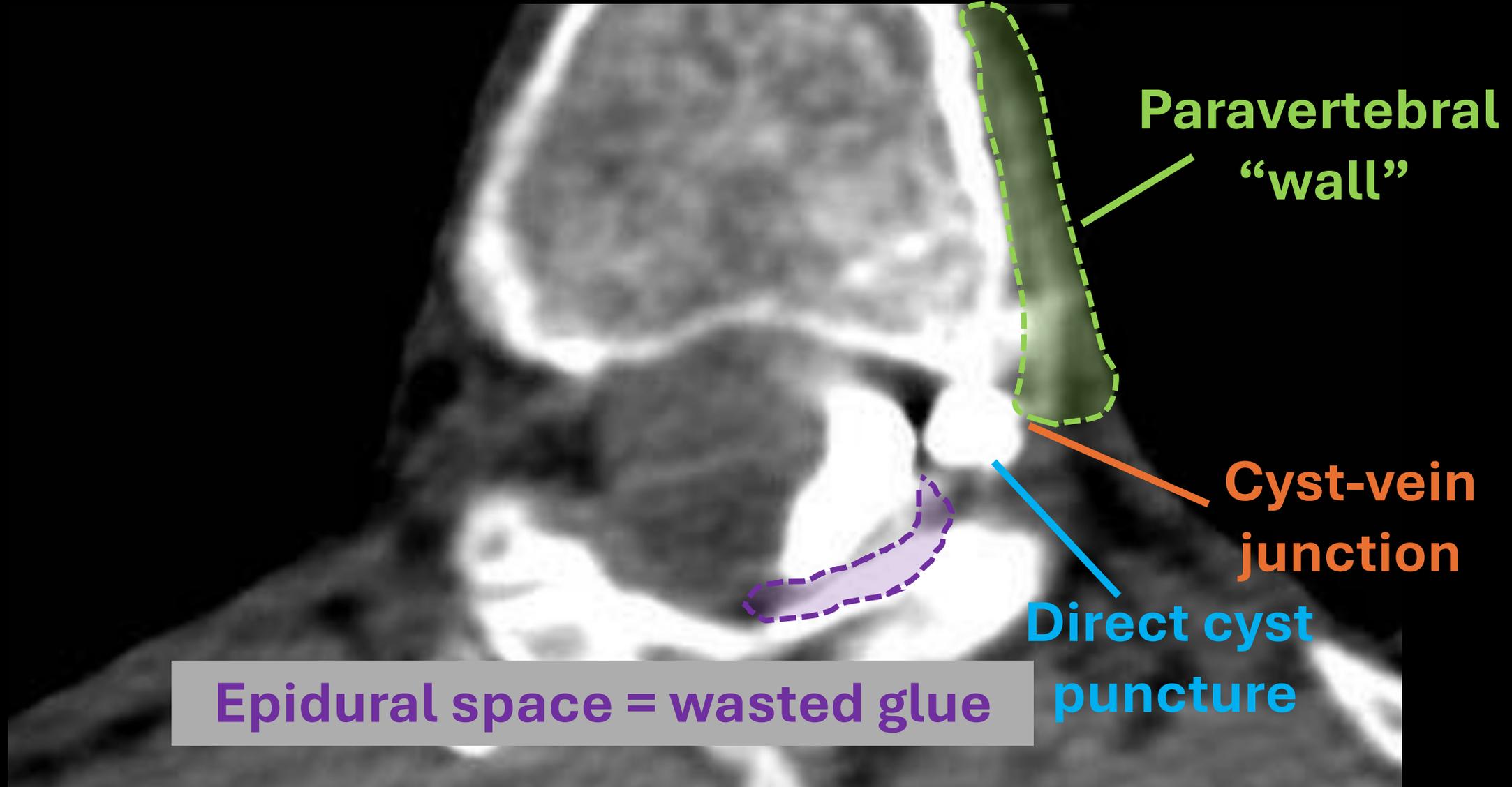


Glue Spread  
Matters



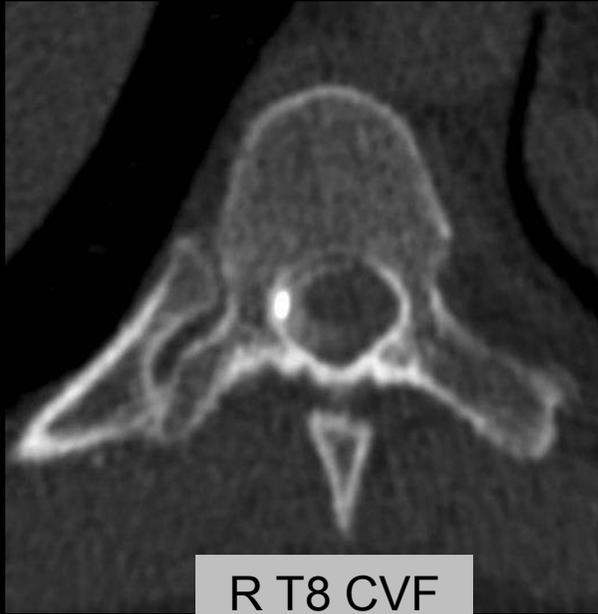
Extrinsic compression  
>>> Intravascular

# CVF Fibrin Glue Patching Locations

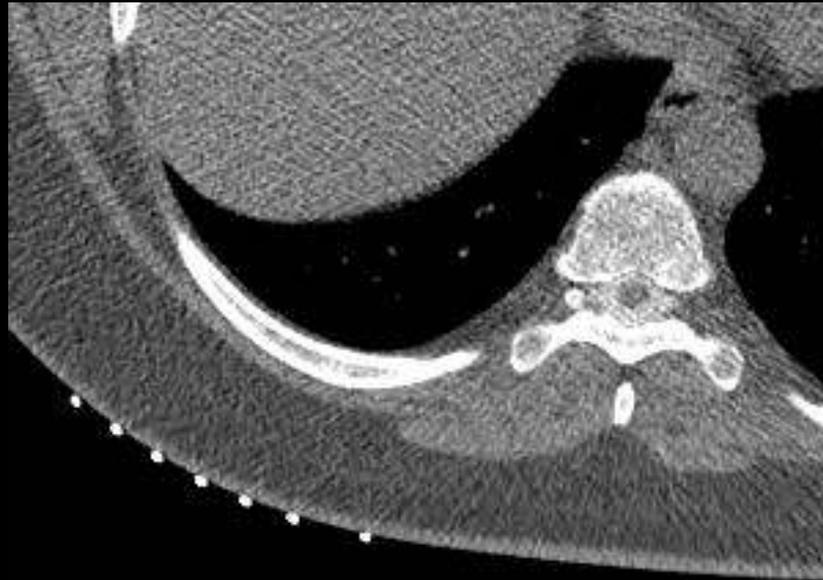


# Results: CVF Fibrin Glue Patching: Targeting Cyst-Vein Junction

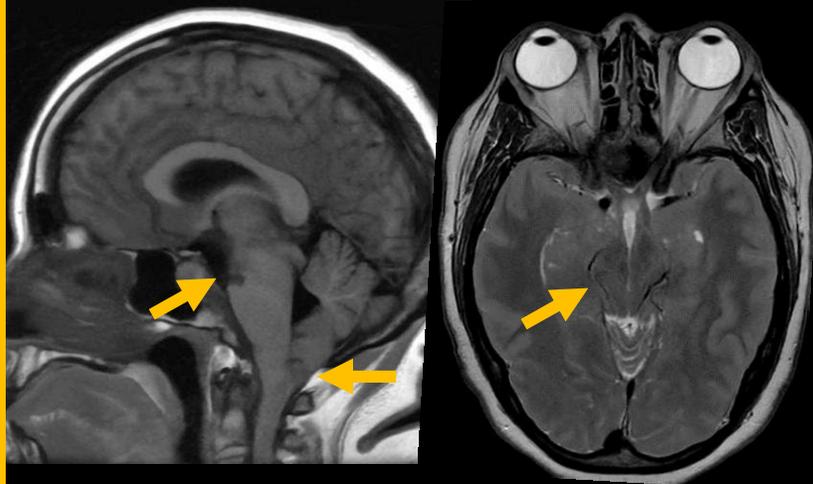
CTM



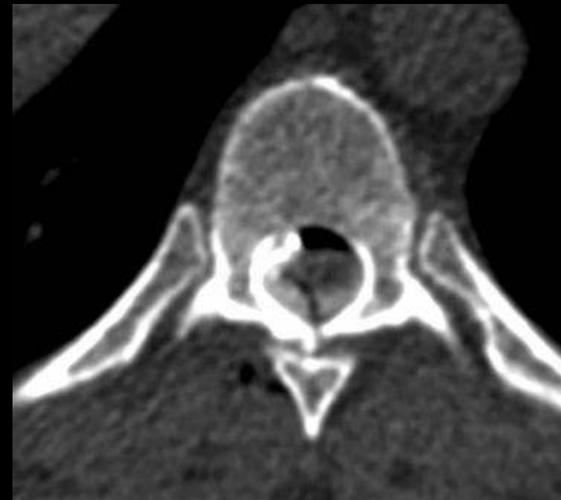
Glue



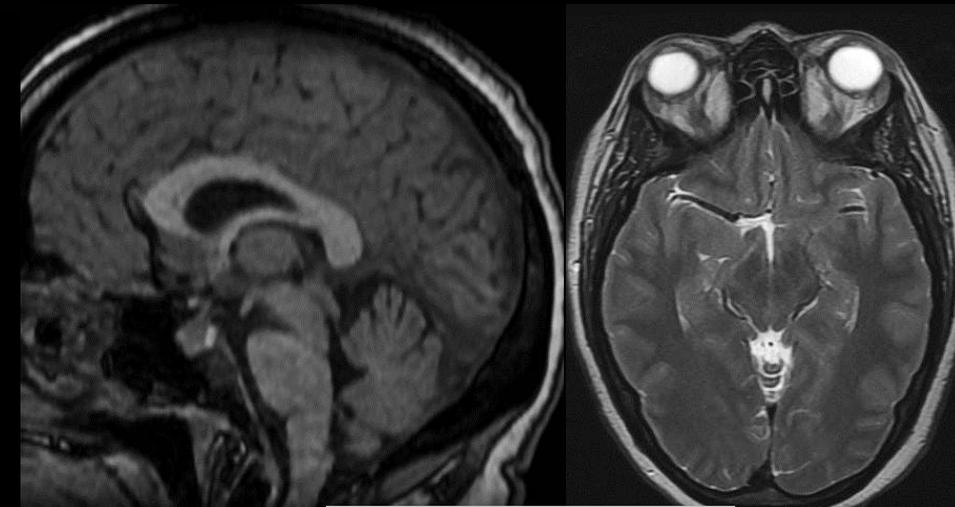
Posttreatment CTM



Pretreatment



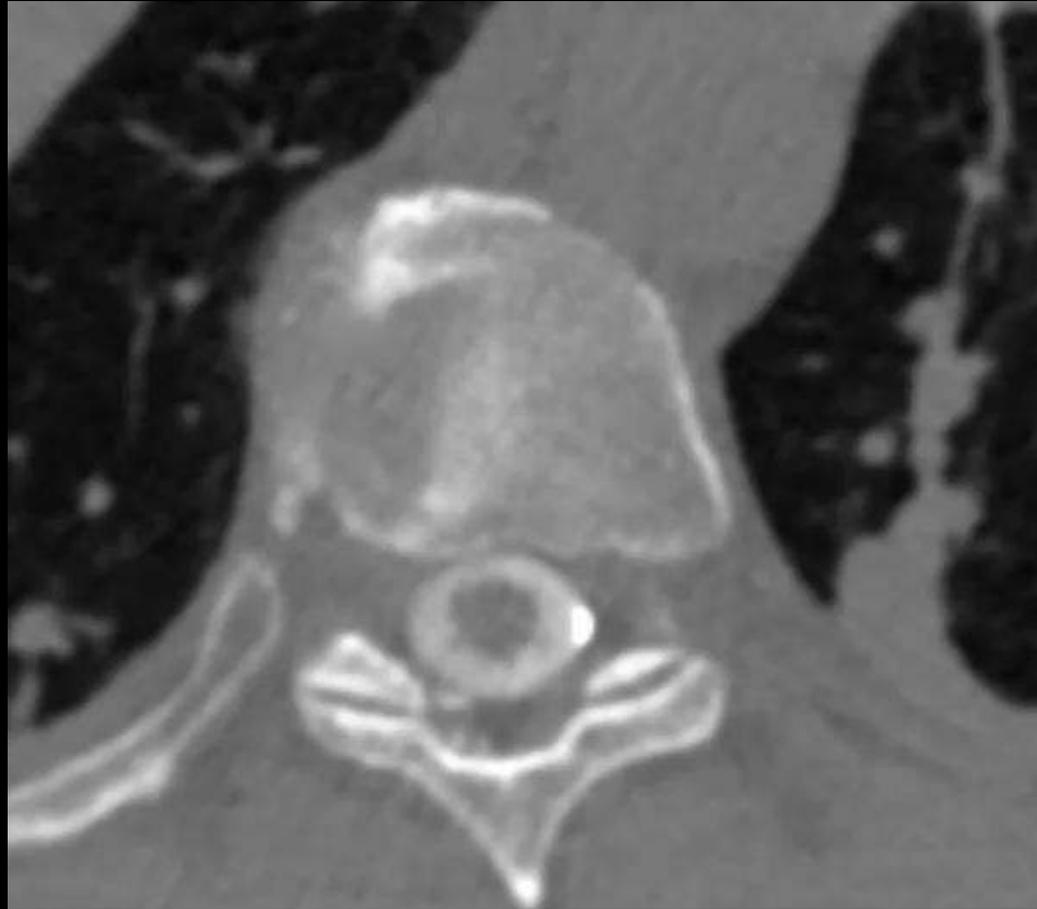
Glue



Posttreatment

# CVF Fibrin Glue Occlusion: Two Levels

CTM



L T9 CVF that extends cranial and exits at T8 level

Glue

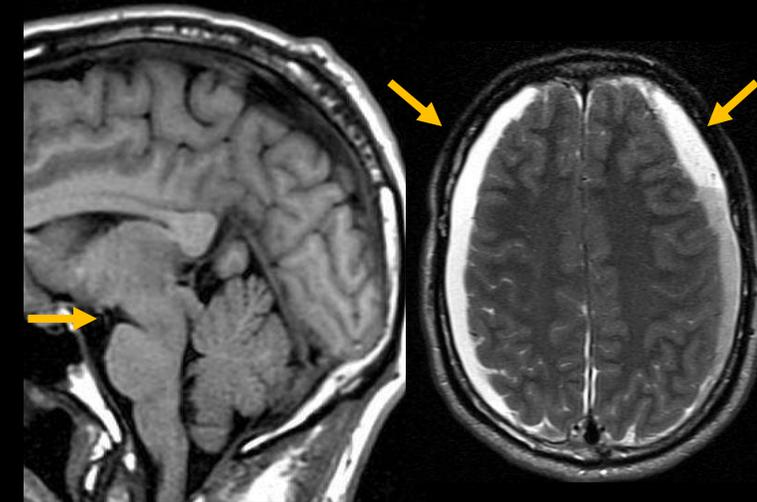


L T9 glue



L T8 glue

MRI

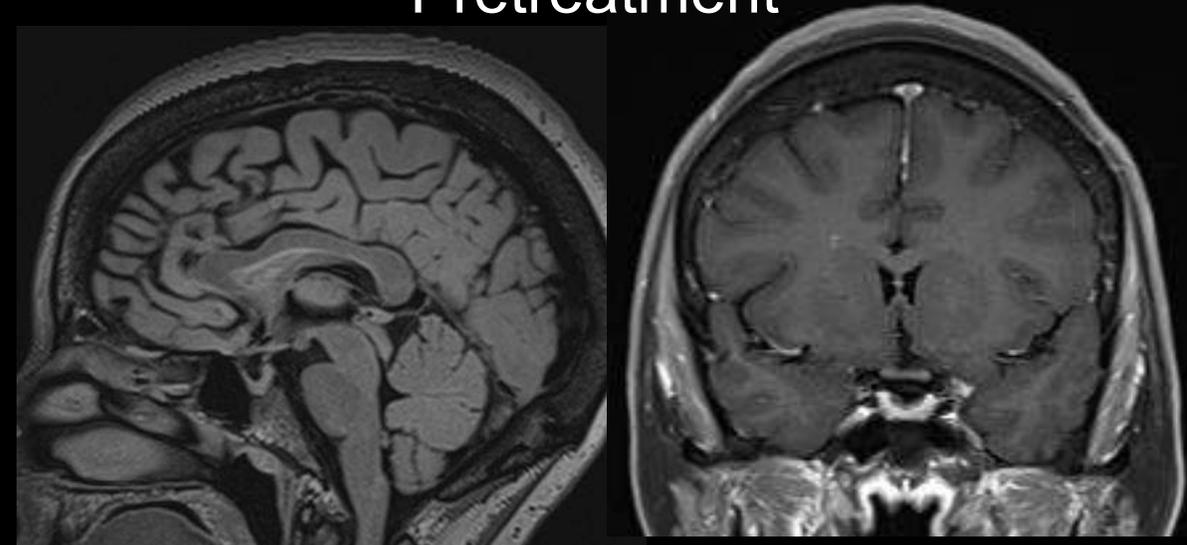
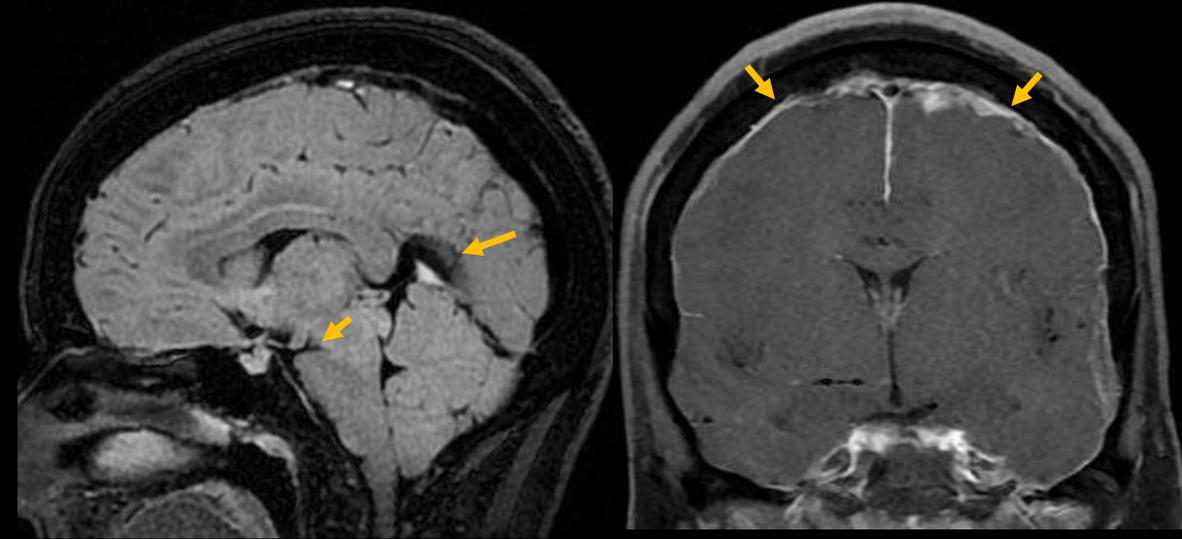
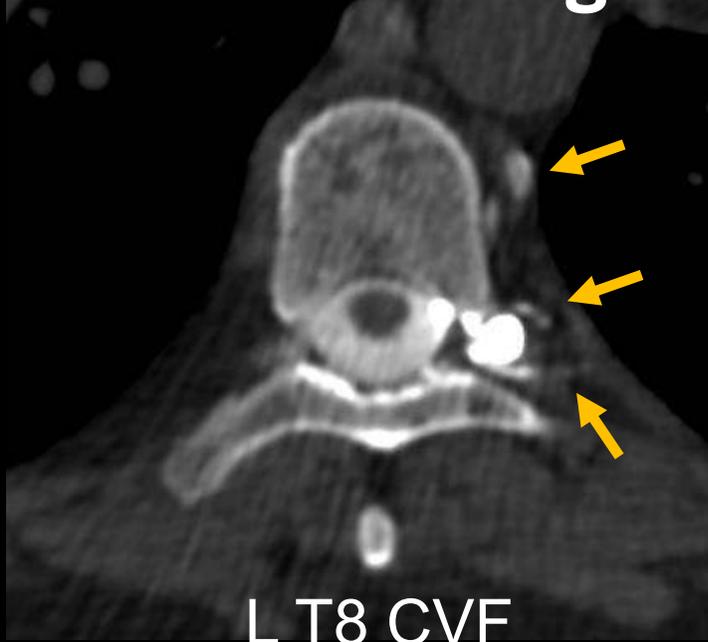


Pretreatment



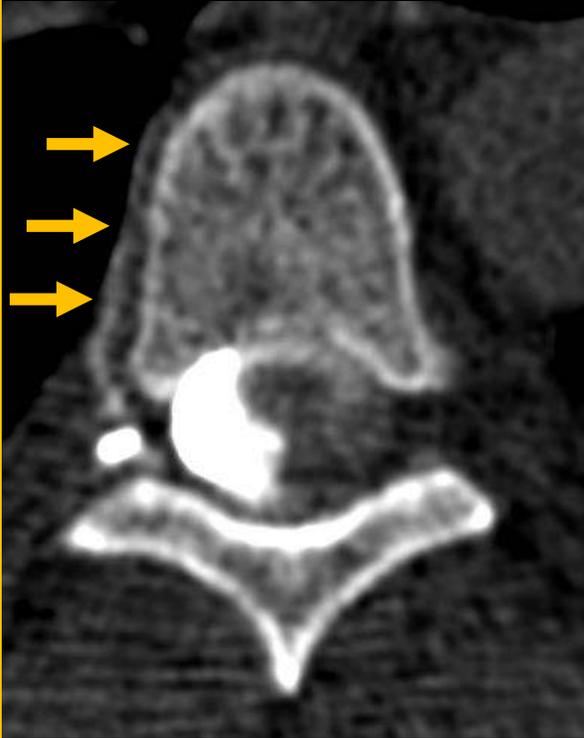
1 Month Posttreatment

# CVF Fibrin Glue Patching: Paravertebral "Wall" Technique



# CVF Fibrin Glue Occlusion: Real-Time Needle Readjustment

CTM



R T6 CVF

Initial Glue



Needle at cyst-  
vein junction

Needle Readjustment



Needle repositioned to  
build paravertebral wall



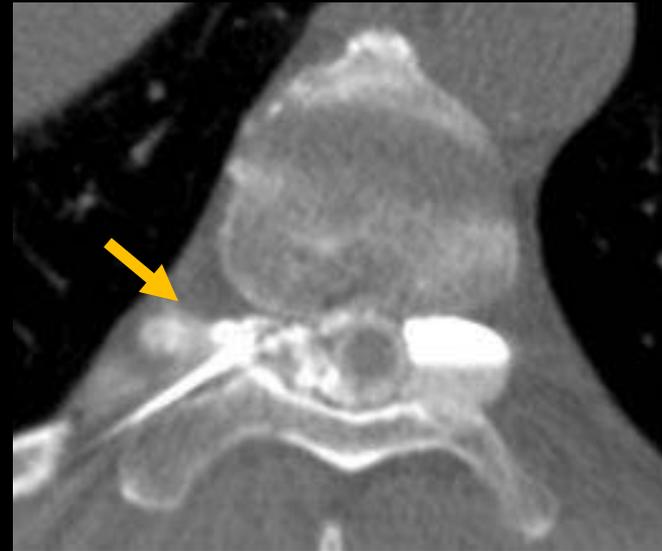
# CVF Fibrin Glue Occlusion: Direct Cyst Puncture

CTM



L T10 CVF

Glue

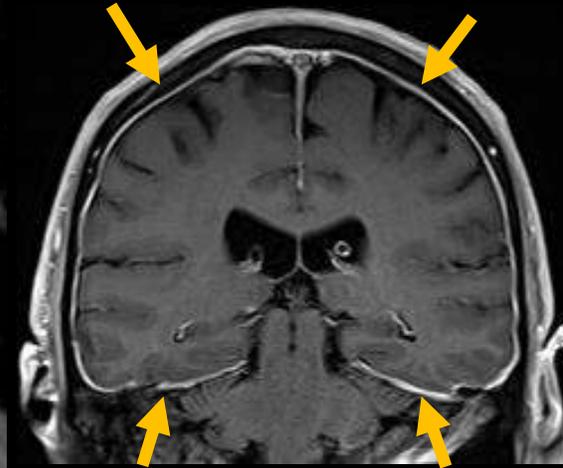


1st Patch: R foraminal glue

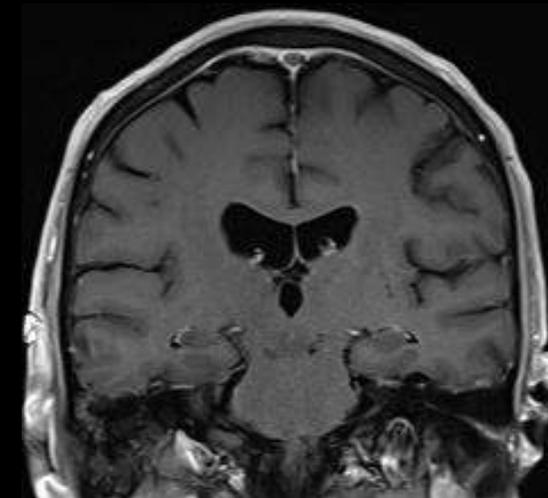


2nd Patch: Direct cyst puncture + R foraminal glue

MRI



Pretreatment



Posttreatment

# Efficacy of CVF Glue Patching

## Factors Predictive of Treatment Success in CT-Guided Fibrin Occlusion of CSF-Venous Fistulas: A Multicenter Retrospective Cross-Sectional Study

2023

 Andrew L. Callen,  Lalani Carlton Jones,  Vincent M. Timpone,  Jack Pattee,  Daniel J. Scoffings,  David Butteriss,  Thien Huynh,  Peter Y. Shen, and  Mark D. Mamlouk

### Clinical Improvement

- 59.7% complete
- 34.5% partial
- 5.9% none

### Statistically Significant

Glue spread matching CVF drainage pattern

Similar to

The impact of CSF venous fistula embolization on patient's quality of life, a longitudinal clinical-radiological exploration 64% complete HA response  
2025

Malo Goapper<sup>1</sup>, Liesjet E.H. van Dokkum<sup>1</sup>, Vincent Costalat<sup>1</sup>, Gaetano Risi<sup>1</sup>, Lucas Corti<sup>2</sup>, Olivia Portalier<sup>1</sup>, Nicolas Lonjon<sup>3</sup>, Emmanuelle Le Bars<sup>4</sup>, Anne Ducros<sup>2</sup> and Federico Cagnazzo<sup>1\*</sup>

# Our Spinal Leak Journey

1

CVF Fibrin  
Patching  
Technique

2

3 Technical Tips  
for Success

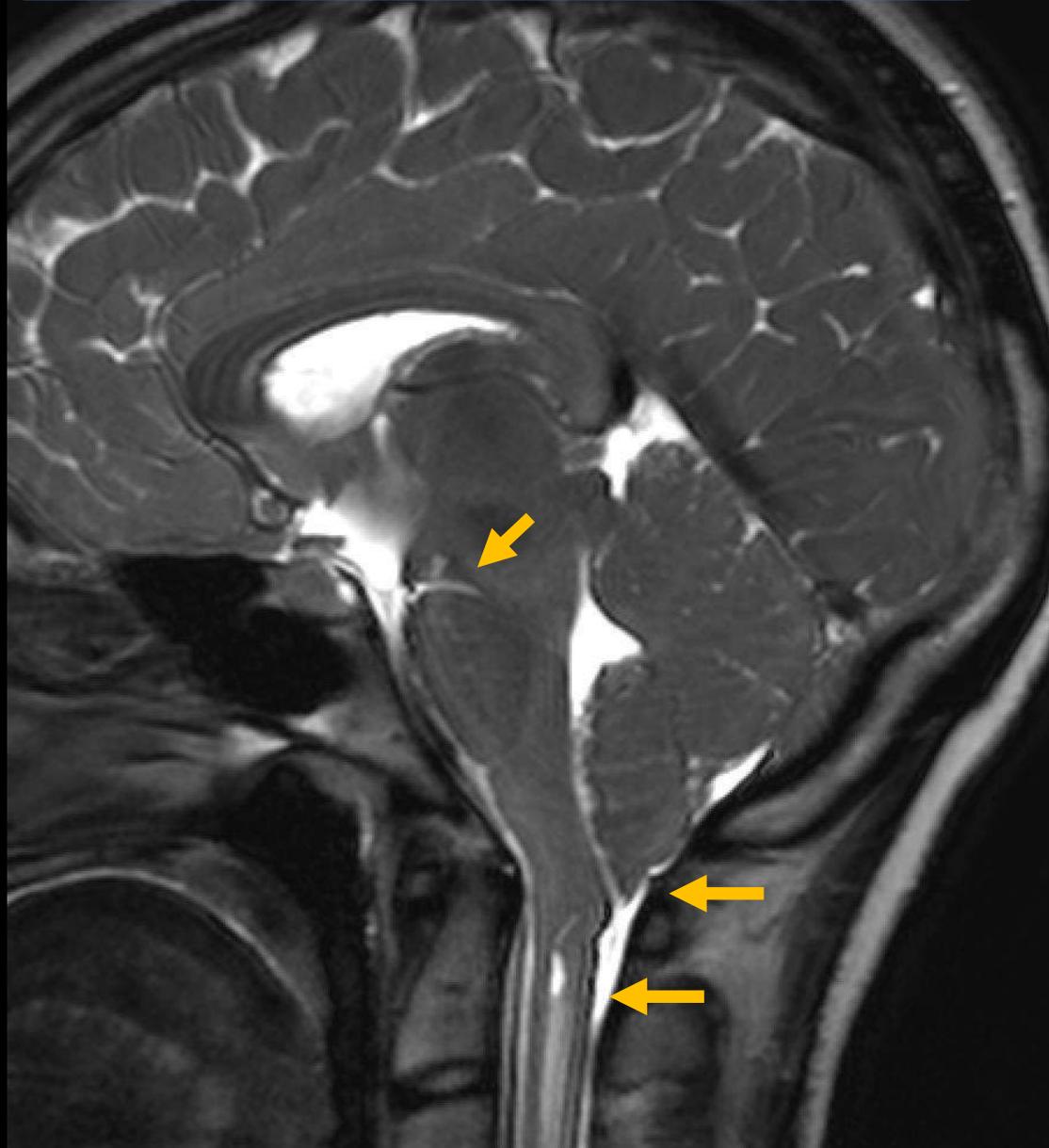
3

Additional glue  
patching  
opportunities

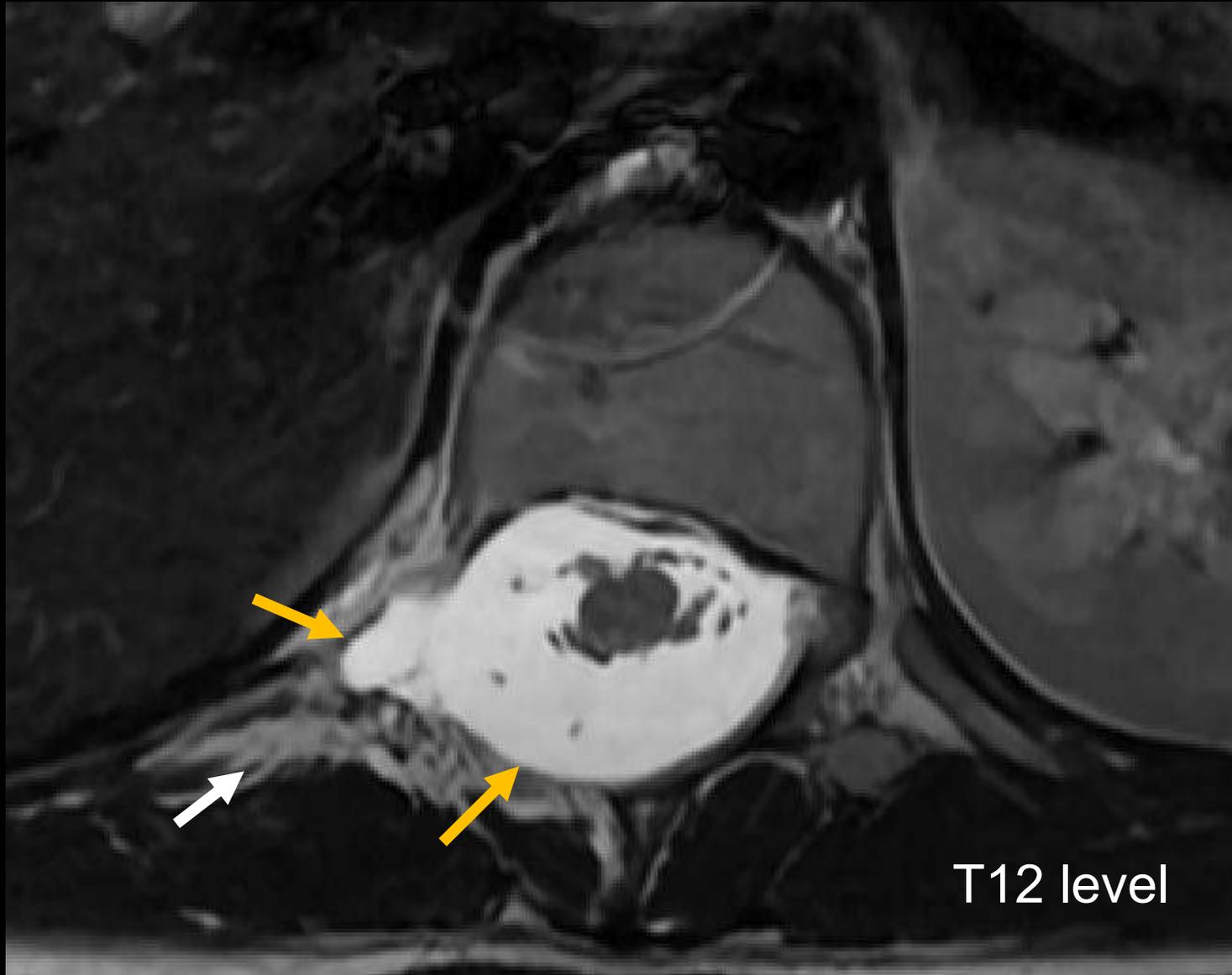
# Other Glue Patching Opportunities



23F, HAs, "Chiari" evaluation



# Recent Outside Spine MRI

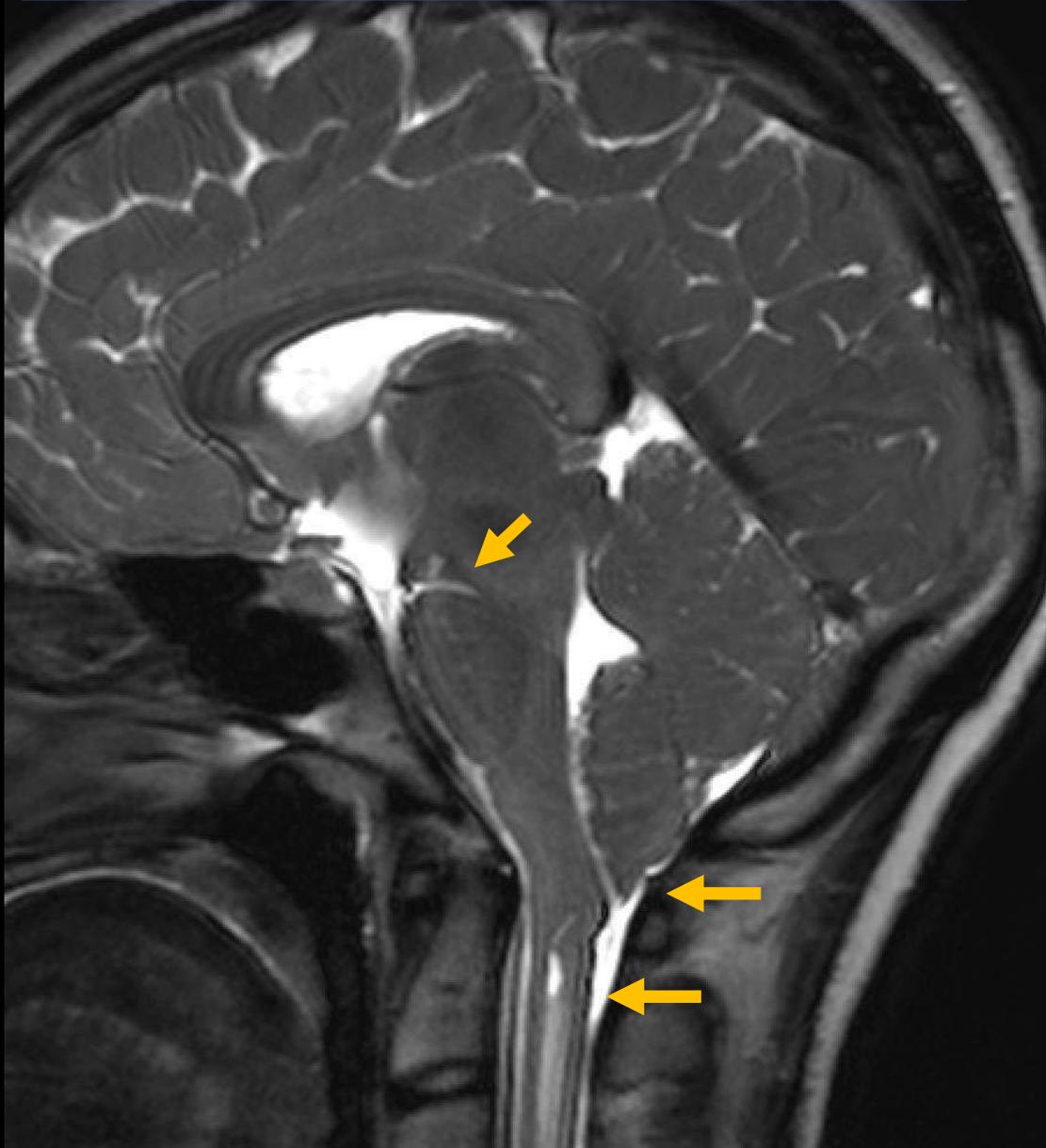


MRI 22 years prior

“Epidural hematoma or hemangioma”



23F, HAs, "Chiari" evaluation



Impression:  
Imaging findings concerning for  
SIH from a venous malformation  
fistula. Recommend right  
decubitus CT myelogram

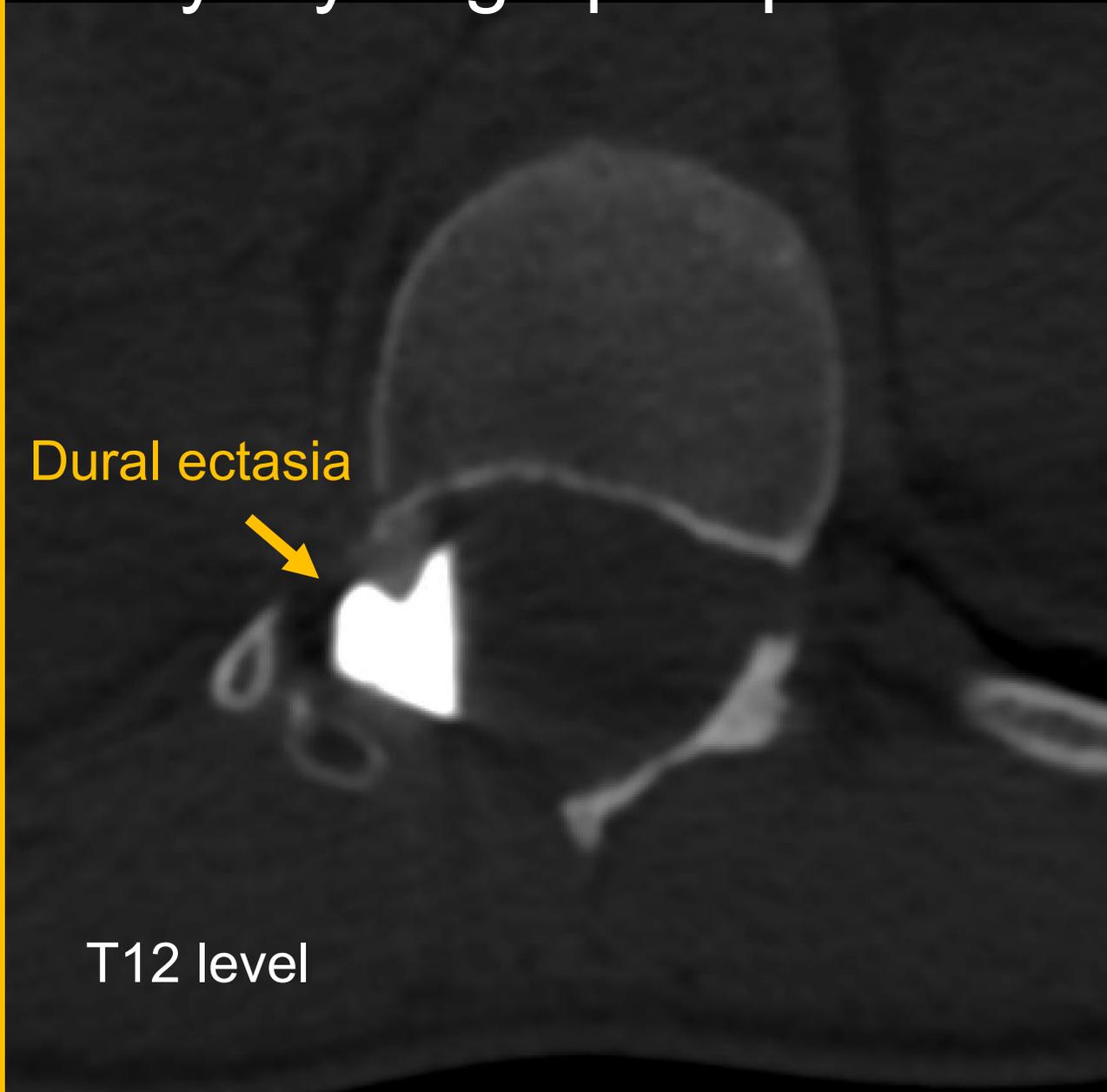
# Early myelographic phase

Dural ectasia

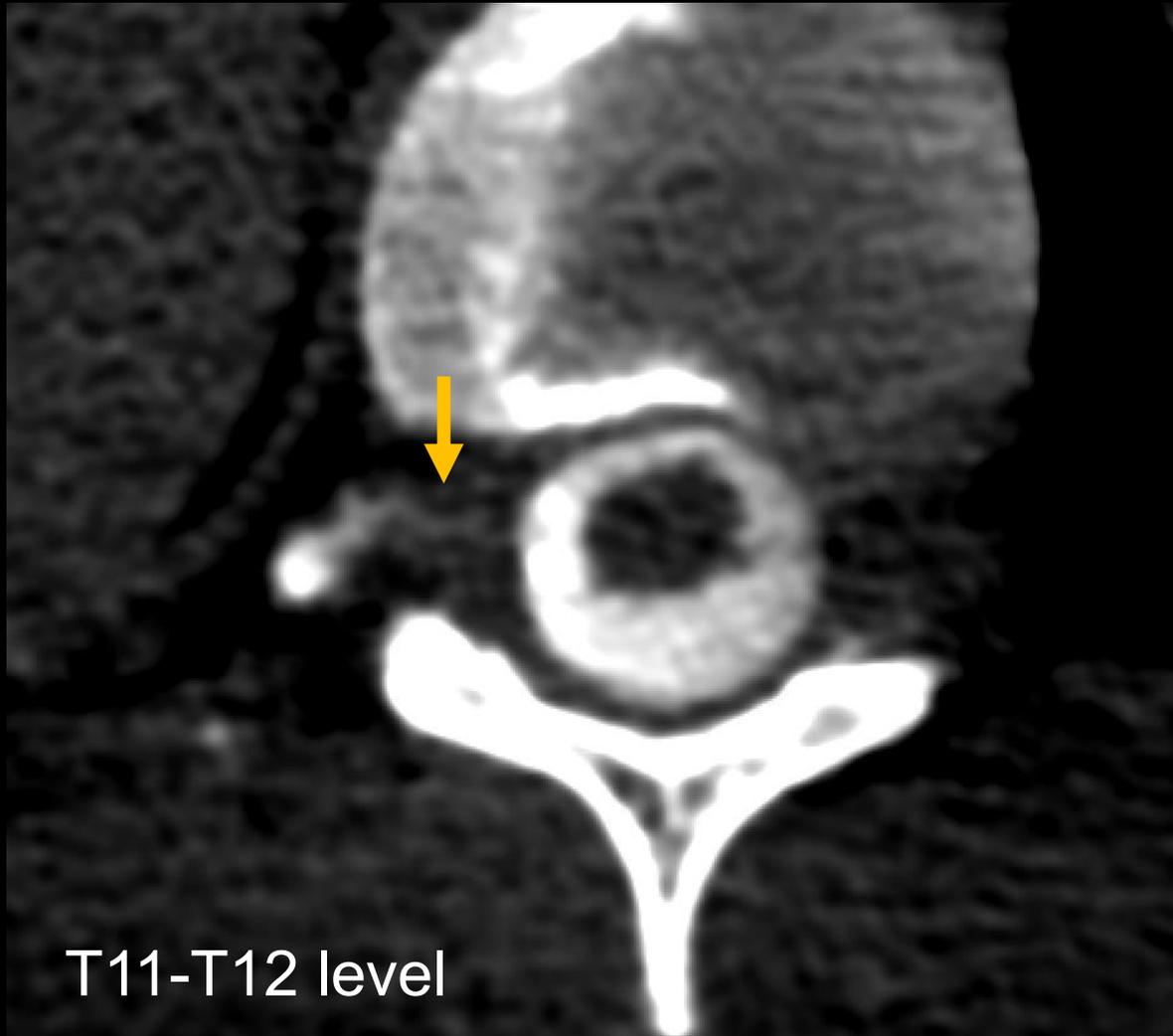


T12 level

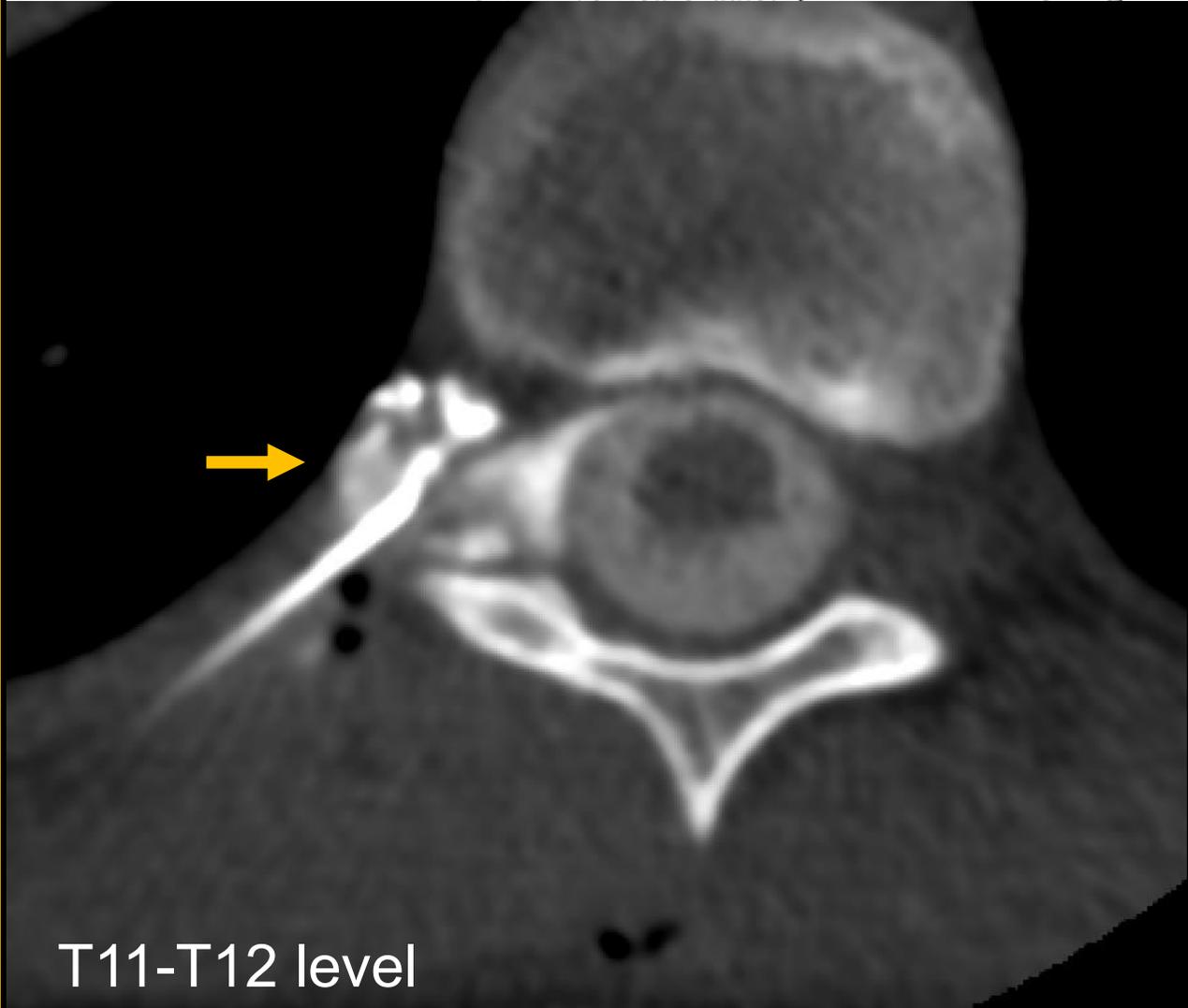
Phlebolith



# Delayed myelographic phase



**CSF-Venous Malformation Fistula**



Fibrin Glue Patch



Sclerotherapy



[mark.d.mamlouk@kp.org](mailto:mark.d.mamlouk@kp.org)

[mark.mamlouk@ucsf.edu](mailto:mark.mamlouk@ucsf.edu)



[@MarkMamloukMD](https://twitter.com/MarkMamloukMD)