

Quadrigeminal cistern lipoma mimicking intracranial hemorrhage

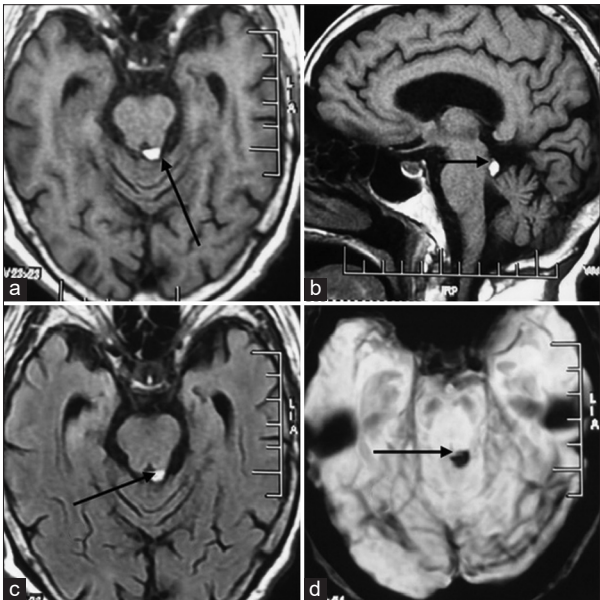
Somarajan Anandan<sup>1</sup>, Sajeesh S Rajendran<sup>2</sup>, Joesni Joy<sup>3</sup>, Anandhu Suresh<sup>3</sup>

From <sup>1</sup>Consultant Neurologist, <sup>3</sup>Resident, Department of Neurology, St Joseph Hospital, Kollam, <sup>2</sup>Consultant Neurologist, Department of Neurology, Mar Sleeva Medicity, Palai, Kerala, India

A 74-year-old female with diabetes mellitus was admitted with fever and altered sensorium for 2 days on a background of recurrent urinary tract infection. There was no history of headache or seizures. Her final diagnosis was septic encephalopathy. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the brain performed during evaluation showed a hyperintense lesion with smooth margins in T1, T2, and fluid-attenuated inversion recovery (FLAIR) images on the left side of the quadrigeminal cistern (6.5 mm × 6.4 mm × 8 mm) without any mass effect. There was blooming on susceptibility-weighted images, raising the possibility of blood or calcium (Fig. 1). Subsequent computed tomography (CT) of the head and fat-saturated images confirmed it as a lipoma.

Intracranial lipomas are very rare tumors with an incidence of 0.1–0.5% of all intracranial tumors. They tend to be placed at the midline, most commonly in the pericallosal cistern (50%). The quadrigeminal/superior cerebellar lipomas account for 25% of the cases, followed by suprasellar/interpeduncular (14%), cerebellopontine angle (9%), and Sylvian (5%) cistern lipomas. Quadrigeminal cistern lipomas may be associated with hypoplasia of the inferior colliculus or agenesis of the corpus callosum [1]. Intracranial lipomas are neither hamartomas nor true neoplasms but are thought to be malformations arising from the differentiation of the aberrant embryological meninx primitiva, the predecessor of the subarachnoid space. This explains why intracranial lipomas are seen in the subarachnoid space and why they may have parenchymal abnormalities and traverse structures. Most intracranial lipomas are asymptomatic, but they can present with symptoms such as headache and seizures [2].

Lipomas are hyperintense on T1, T2, and FLAIR images. They can mimic subacute hemorrhage if they show blooming in susceptibility-weighted imaging/gradient-recalled echo (SWI/GRE) images and can be a diagnostic pitfall in trauma settings. Fat-suppressed MRI images or CT scan will clarify the diagnosis [3,4]. There are only a few differential diagnoses for T1 hyperintense intracranial lesions [5] (Table 1). If an intracranial lesion shows T1 hyperintensity, blooming on SWI/GRE, and no surrounding



**Figure 1:** (a) Axial brain T1-weighted image showing hyperintensity in the quadrigeminal cistern; (b) sagittal T1-weighted image showing hyperintensity; (c) Axial fluid-attenuated inversion recovery image showing hyperintensity; (d) susceptibility-weighted imaging image showing uniform blooming

**Table 1: Intracranial T1 hyperintense lesions**

| T1 hyperintense lesions               | Example                    |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Some stages of hemoglobin degradation | Meth hemoglobin            |
| Some minerals                         | Calcium, Manganese, Copper |
| Lipid containing lesions              | Lipoma, Dermoid            |
| Lesions with high protein content     | Colloid cyst               |
| Gadolinium                            |                            |
| Melanin                               | Metastatic melanoma        |

edema or mass effect, intracranial lipoma should be considered, especially if it is located in the pericallosal, quadrigeminal, suprasellar, or interpeduncular cistern.

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**Correspondence to:** Somarajan Anandan, Department of Neurology, St Joseph Hospital, Anchal, Kollam - 691306, Kerala, India. E-mail: drsomarajan@yahoo.co.in

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Received - 13 July 2026<br>Initial Review - 25 July 2026<br>Accepted - 12 August 2026 | Quick Response code<br> |
| DOI: ***                                                                              |                                                                                                            |

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*Funding: Nil; Conflicts of interest: Nil.*

**How to cite this article:** Anandan S, Rajendran SS, Joy J, Suresh A. Quadrigeminal Cistern Lipoma Mimicking Intracranial Hemorrhage. Indian J Case Reports. 2026; August 19 [Epub ahead of print].