

Headache after Labor epidural – Post Dural Puncture Headache or Cerebral Venous Thrombosis: Case report

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Introduction

- Headache in the postpartum period is common with multifactorial etiology
- Postdural puncture headache (PDPH) → potential complication after unintentional dural puncture during labor epidural placement
- Other causes of headache in the post partum period should also be investigated

Patient presentation

- A 24 year-old gravida 4 para 1 female with PMH of Protein S deficiency, Prothrombin gene mutation, anxiety and depression received a labor epidural for induction of labor at 38 w 2d for IUGR
- On prophylactic enoxaparin therapy for thrombophilia
- Complained of headache on PPD 2 → migraine, discharged home, enoxaparin continued



Case report

Initial presentation – PPD 3:

- Presented to ED with positional headache, better with supine position, offered epidural blood patch, discharged home as needed to hold enoxaparin

PPD 4:

- Presented for blood patch but pt declined to undergo the procedure

PPD 5:

- Presented with acute onset right sided weakness and word finding difficulty
- CT scan → acute left frontoparietal infarct
- CTA → occluded left cortical vein, non occlusive superior sagittal thrombosis
- Started on heparin gtt, transferred to our hospital
- APS consulted for epidural blood patch given slight positional nature of her headache, not able to participate in therapy
- Mutual decision → given findings of acute cerebral venous thrombosis-conservative management was initiated

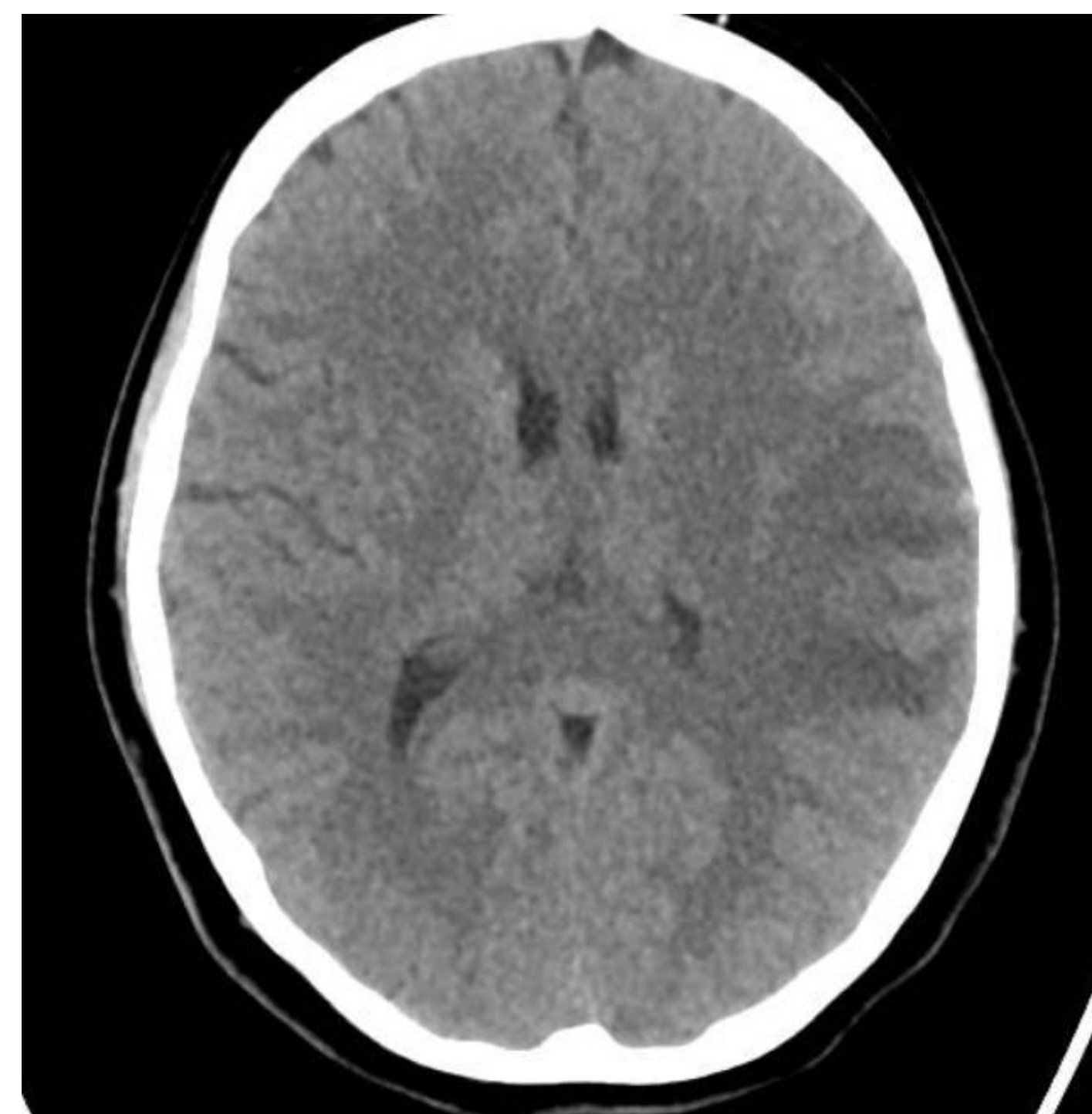


Figure 1: CT scan

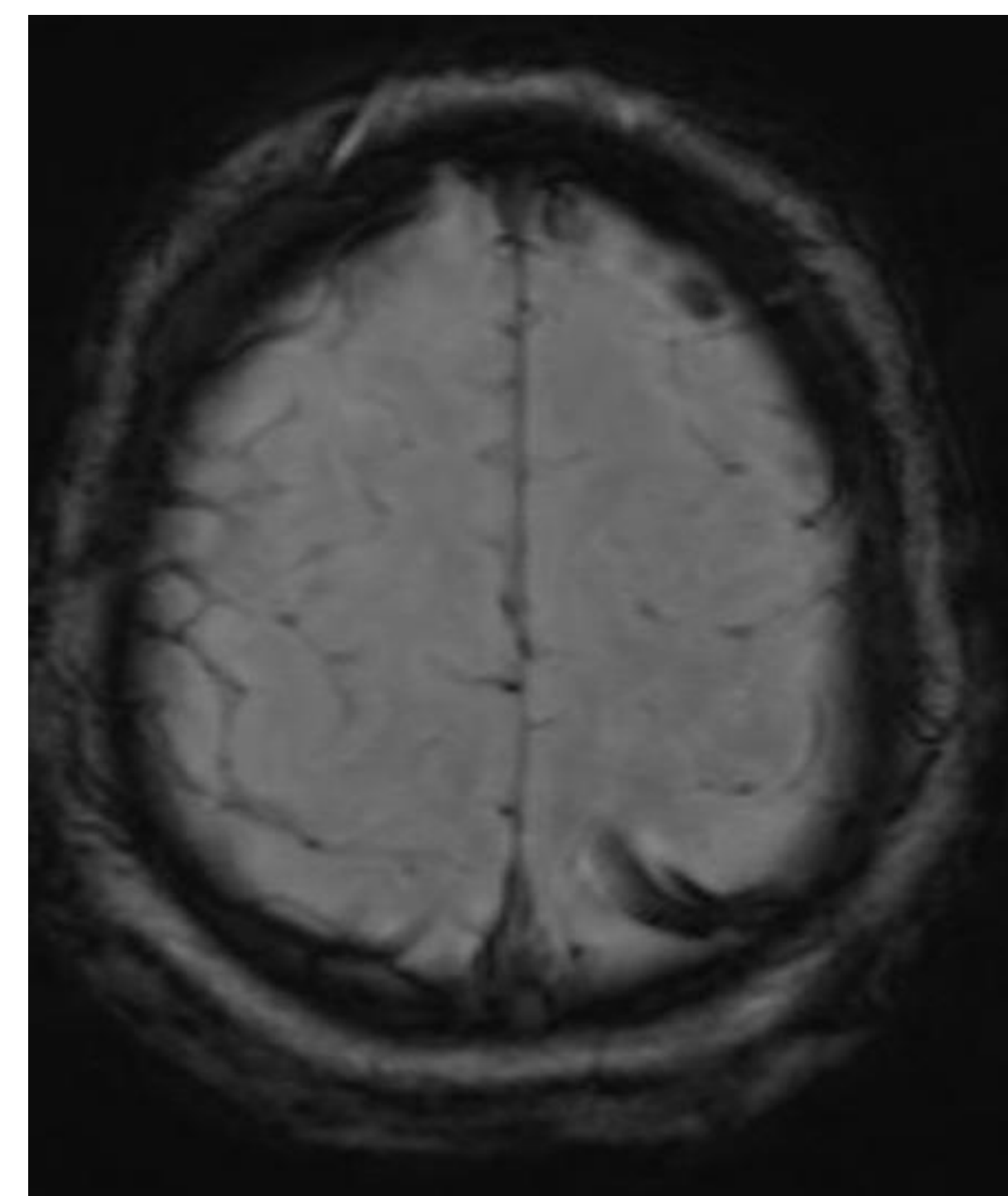


Figure 2: MRI scan

Discussion

- Differential diagnosis of headache in post partum period
 - PDPH
 - Primary headache disorders – migraine
 - Preeclampsia
 - Acute ischemic stroke
 - Cerebral venous thrombosis
 - Subdural hematoma
- Cerebral venous thrombosis – risk factors for this patient
 - Protein S deficiency
 - Hypercoagulable state of pregnancy, thrombophilia
 - Multiple interruptions in anticoagulation
 - Intracranial hypotension due to postdural puncture CSF leak

Conclusion

- Add venous phase of CTA as work up for stroke in peripartum period
- Early recognition of cause of headache in pregnancy and labor
- Caution to stop anticoagulation in a postpartum patient with high risk of thrombosis

REFERENCES

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