

# Cortical Vein Thrombosis After Apparent Resolution of Post-Dural Puncture Headache Following Epidural Blood Patch

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## Background

- Post-dural puncture headache (PDPH) is a common postpartum complication after neuraxial anesthesia and may require epidural blood patch (EBP)<sup>1</sup>
- Postpartum headache has a wide differential with secondary causes that can mimic PDPH, including cerebral venous thrombosis (CVT) and intracranial hemorrhage. Both of which can have severe long term sequelae<sup>2</sup>



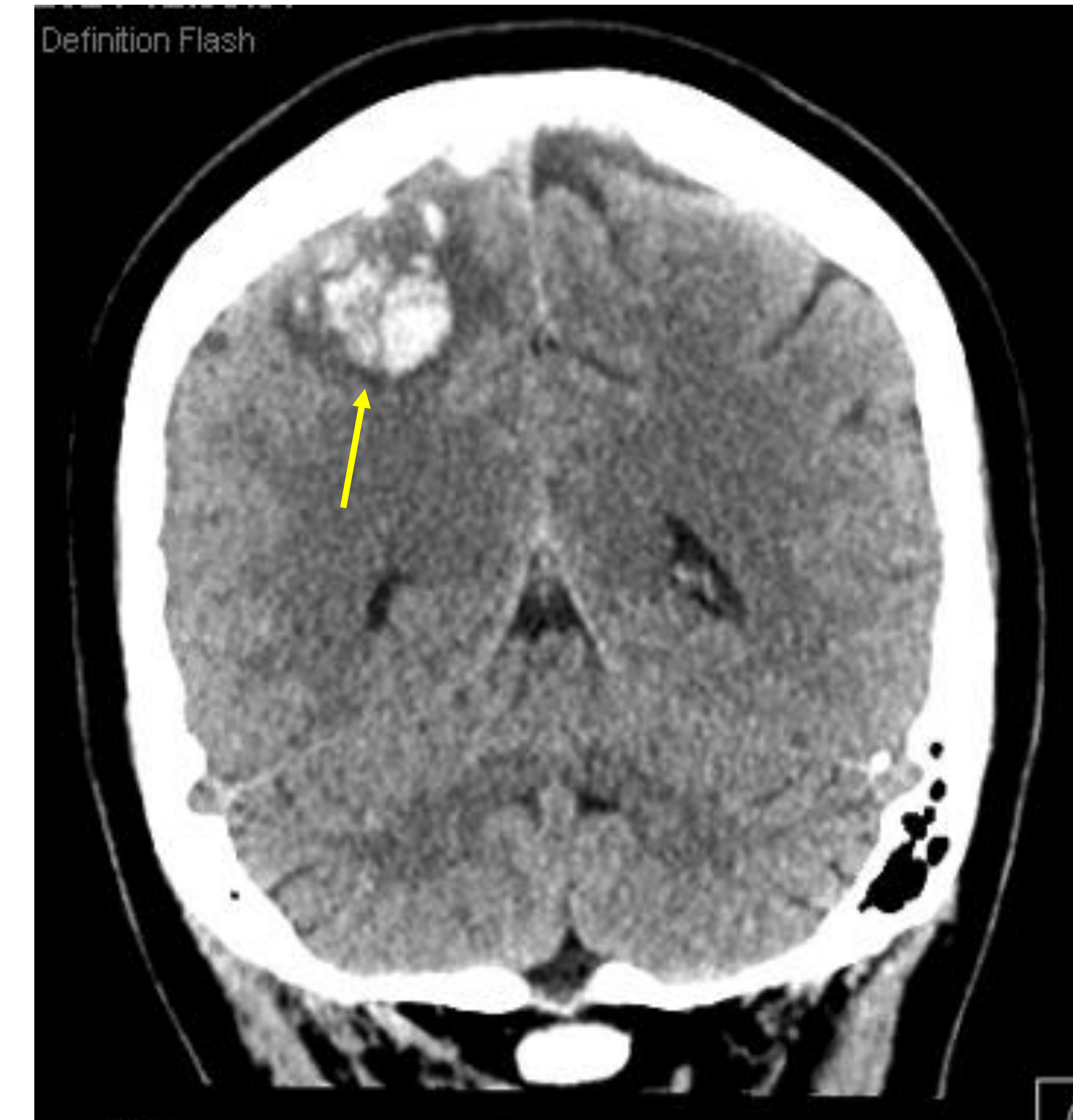
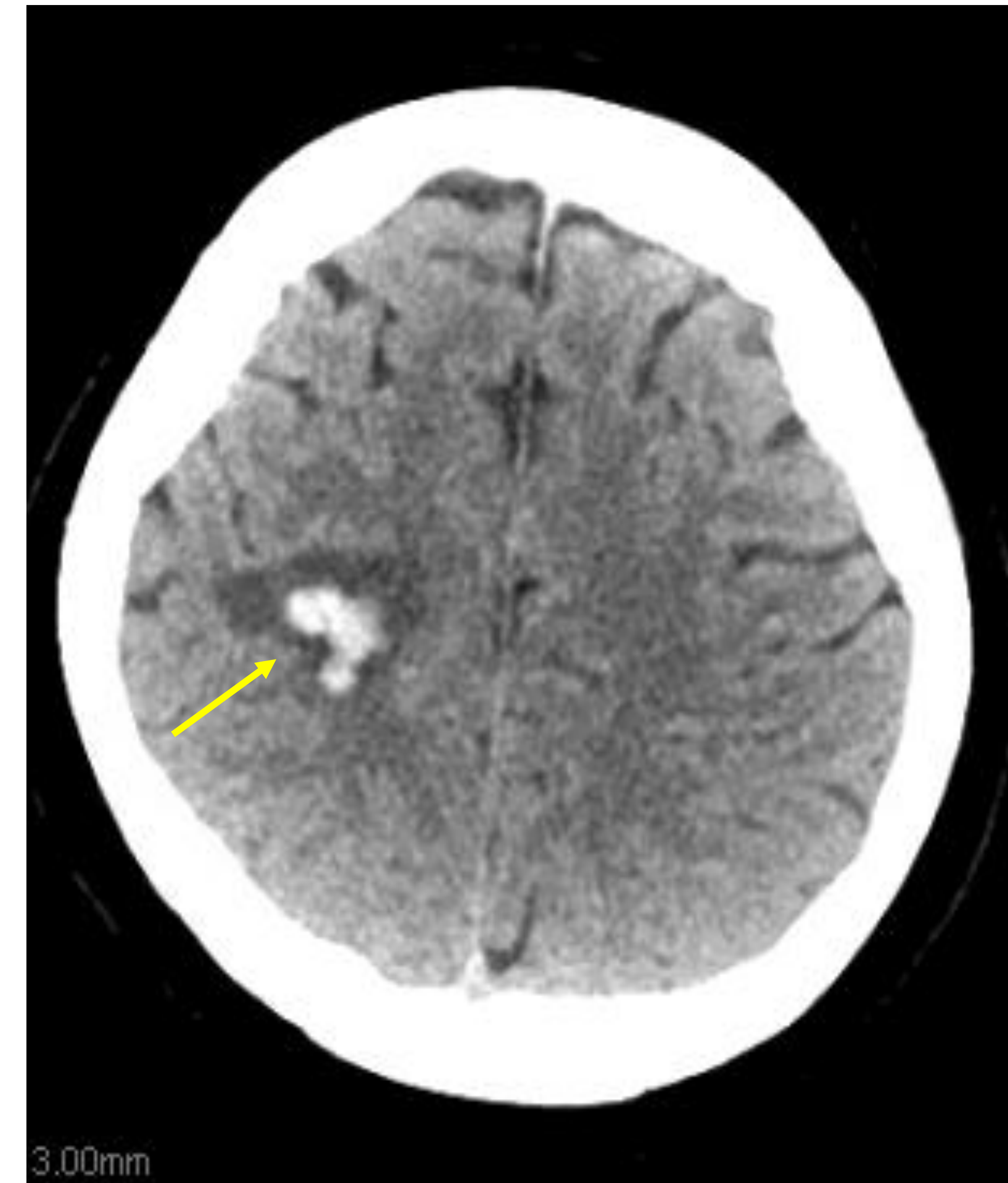
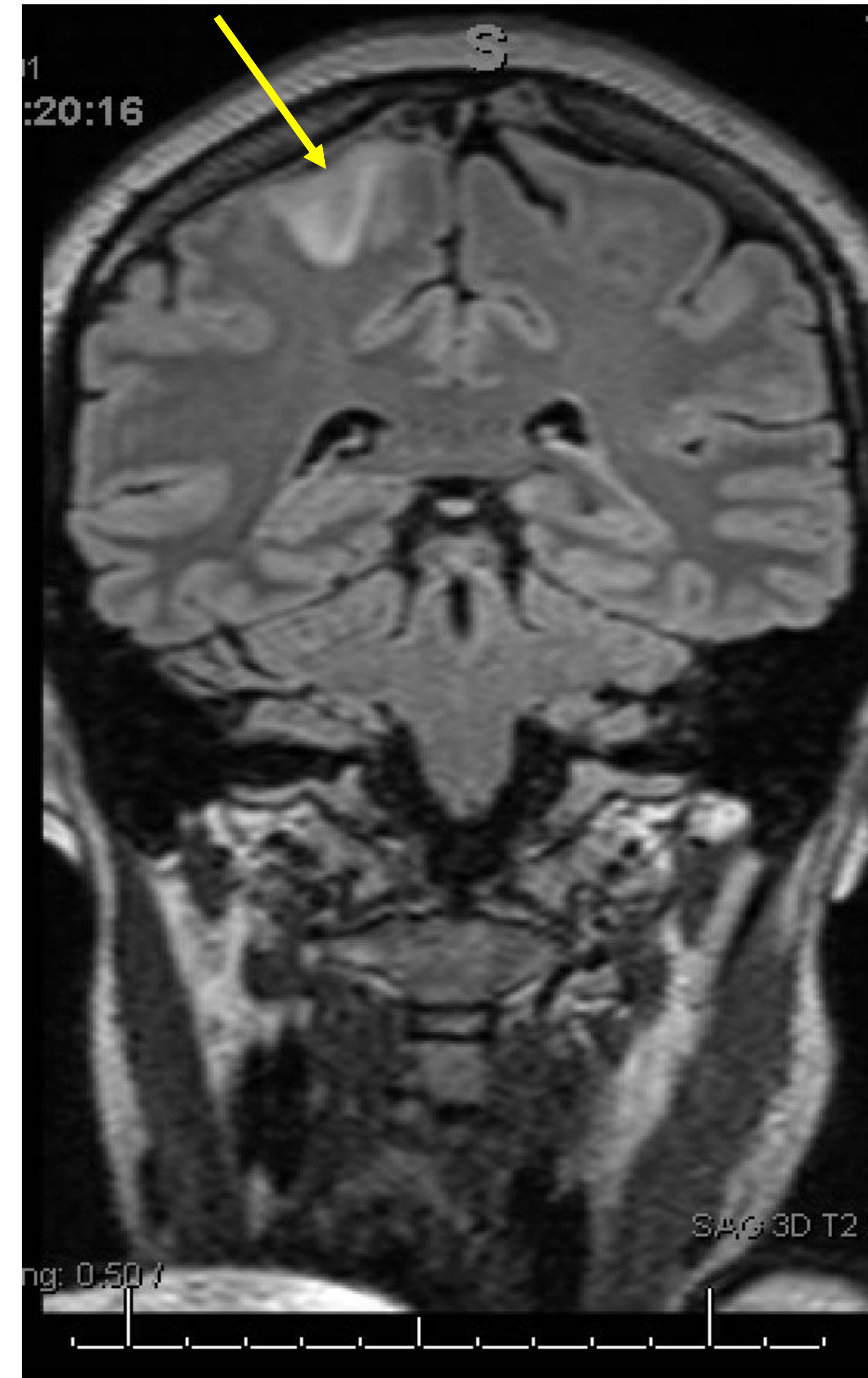
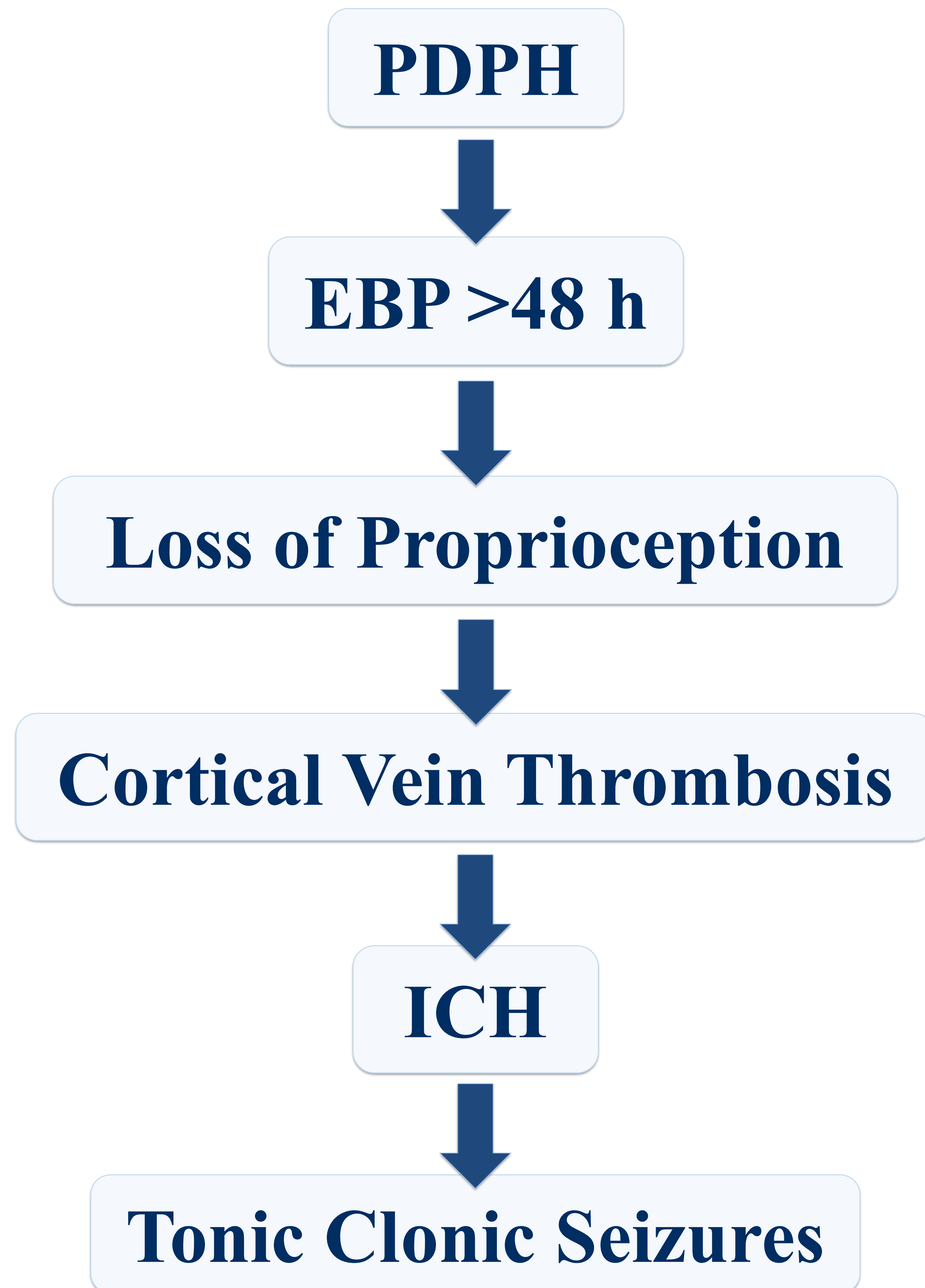
<sup>1</sup>. Reg Anes Pain Med 2024; 49(7):471

<sup>2</sup>. Emerg Med Clin North Am 2026; 44(1):227

# Case Presentation



Healthy 34-year-old G2P1 at 39+1 had labor epidural for SVD



At 1-year follow-up she remains seizure-free on dual therapy, with **mild motor recovery** but **persistent cognitive and word finding difficulties**.

- Symptom resolution after EBP does not exclude evolving CVT in postpartum patients initially treated for PDPH.
- **Although delaying EBP may improve efficacy, evidence is insufficient to determine whether delay modifies rare neurovascular risk.**

## Teaching Point

- Postpartum patients treated for PDPH who develop **new neurologic symptoms** or a **change in headache phenotype** after EBP should undergo **urgent neuroimaging** to exclude CVT and hemorrhage, and **should not be presumed recurrent or refractory PDPH**.