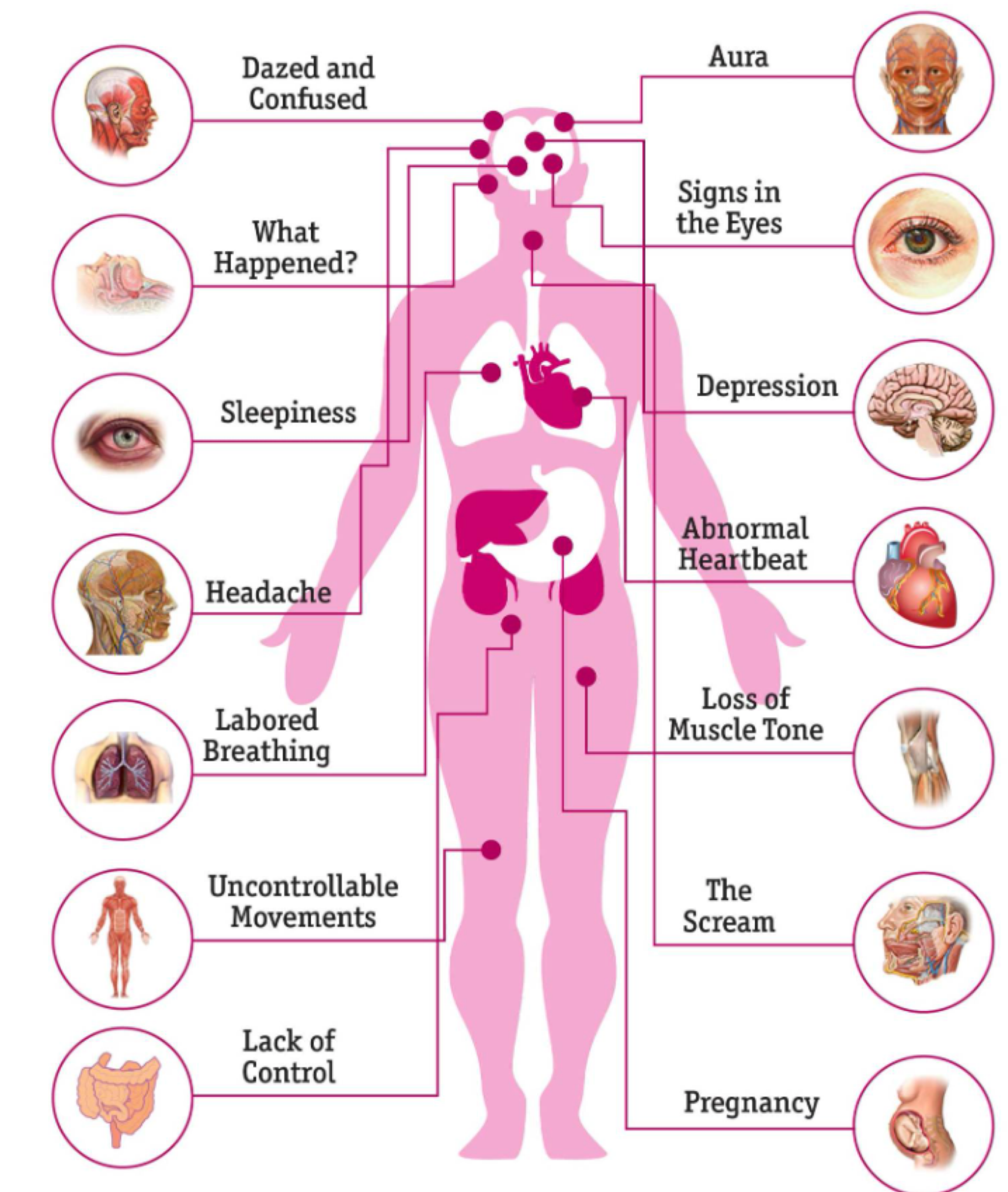


Seizure is the Great Masquerader in the Peripartum Period

Patricia Rusli, MD ; Becky Mirsky, MD ; Goran Ristev, MD

Background

- In the United States, epilepsy affect 1.1 million women of childbearing age.
- 15–30% parturient with history of epilepsy may experience an increase in seizures.
- They also have a four-fold significantly higher risk of death.
- **Differential diagnosis:**
 - Intracranial hemorrhage, cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, ischemic stroke, eclampsia, infection, and local anesthetic systemic toxicity.



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MONTREAL, QUÉBEC, CANADA
LE WESTIN MONTREAL
APRIL 29-MAY 3, 2026

FROM DISCOVERY TO DELIVERY: BRIDGING RESEARCH AND CLINICAL CARE IN OBSTETRIC ANESTHESIA



Case Presentation

- 34 years-old G3P2002 at 39 weeks and 3 days gestation presenting for repeat Cesarean delivery.

HPI

- . Idiopathic epilepsy
- . Prior cesarean delivery
- . Epilepsy clinic:
 - . Increased Levatiracetam
- . Avoid phenylephrine, diphenhydramine

Cesarean Delivery

- . Spinal Anesthesia
- . Norepinephrine as vasopressor
- . Tonic-clonic seizures post-delivery
- . Conversion to general anesthesia
- . Midazolam and magnesium sulfate
- . Extubation at the end of the case

Work-up

- Laboratory test: liver function tests, urinalysis and platelet count
- History from patient
- Assessment of patient

Figure 1. Brain Venogram

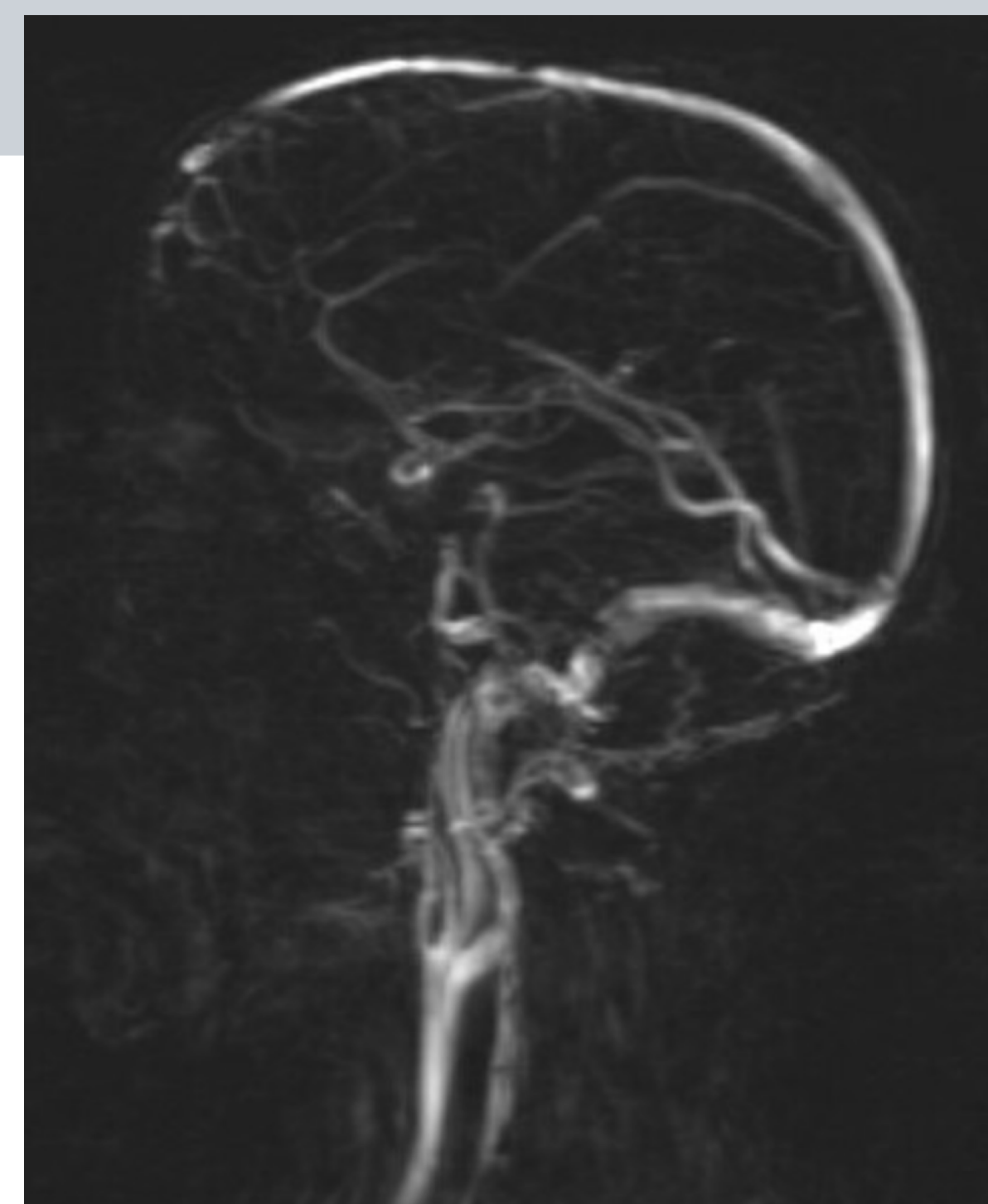
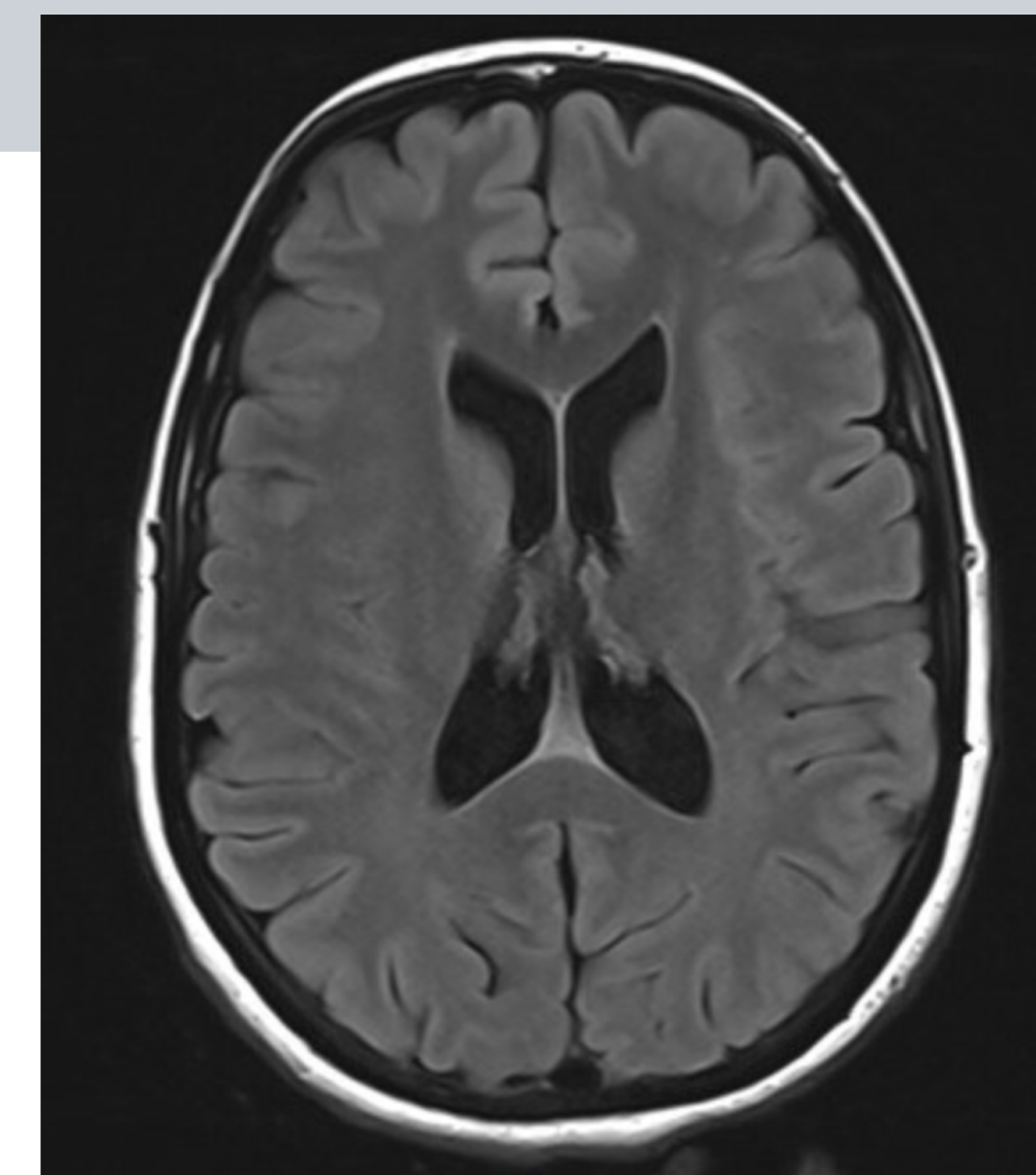


Figure 2. Brain MRI

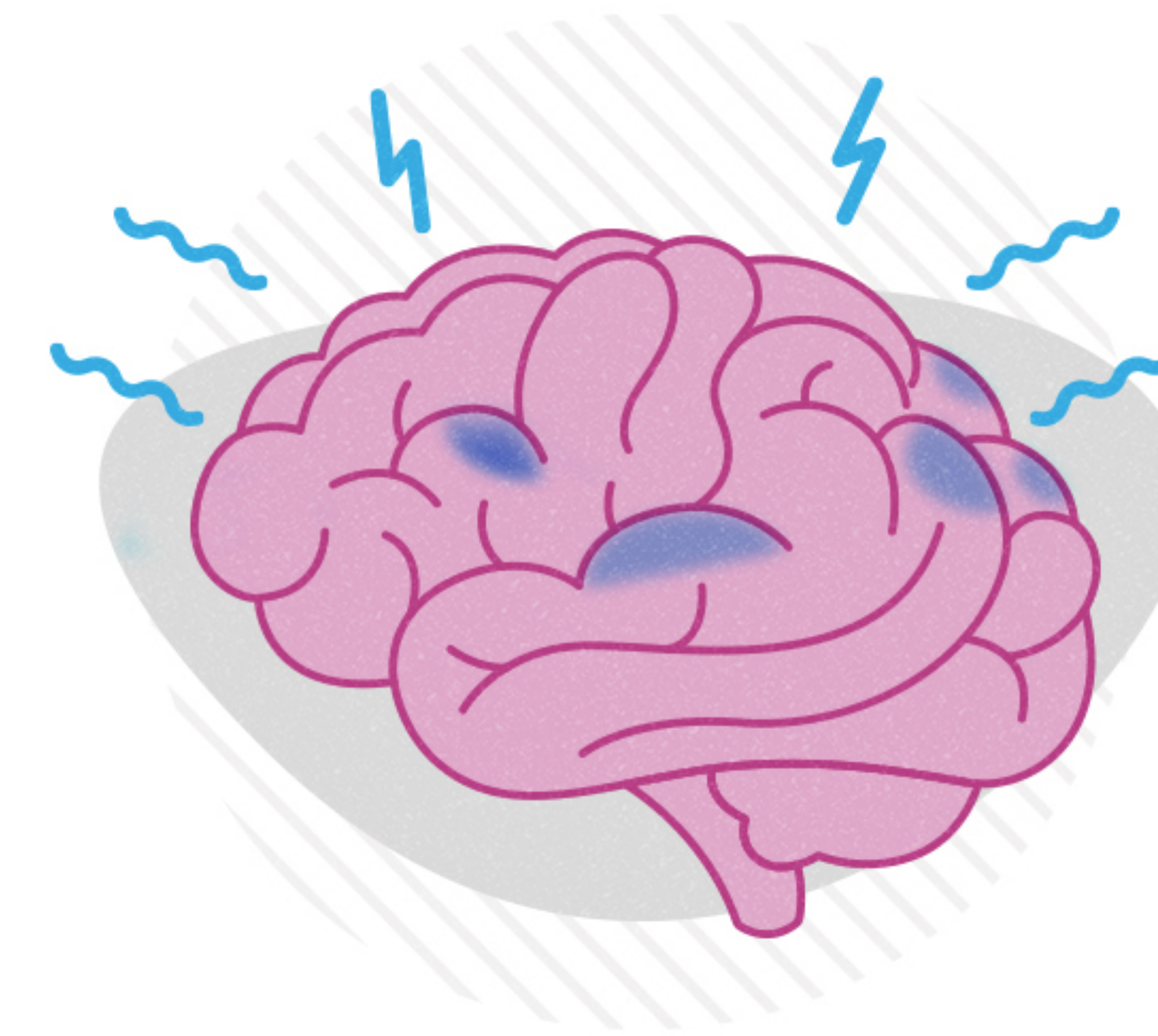


Summary - Learning Points

- Comprehensive Perioperative planning
 - Medication management
 - Patient education
- Prompt differentiation from other pathologies
 - Medical history
 - Laboratory testing and imaging as indicated

- Key anesthetic considerations

- Airway management
- Medication management



References:

Patel Ther ADV Neurol Disord 2015
Beach Int Rev Neurobol 2008
Razaz JAMA Neurol 2024

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