

Images in Clinical Medicine

Methanol Poisoning

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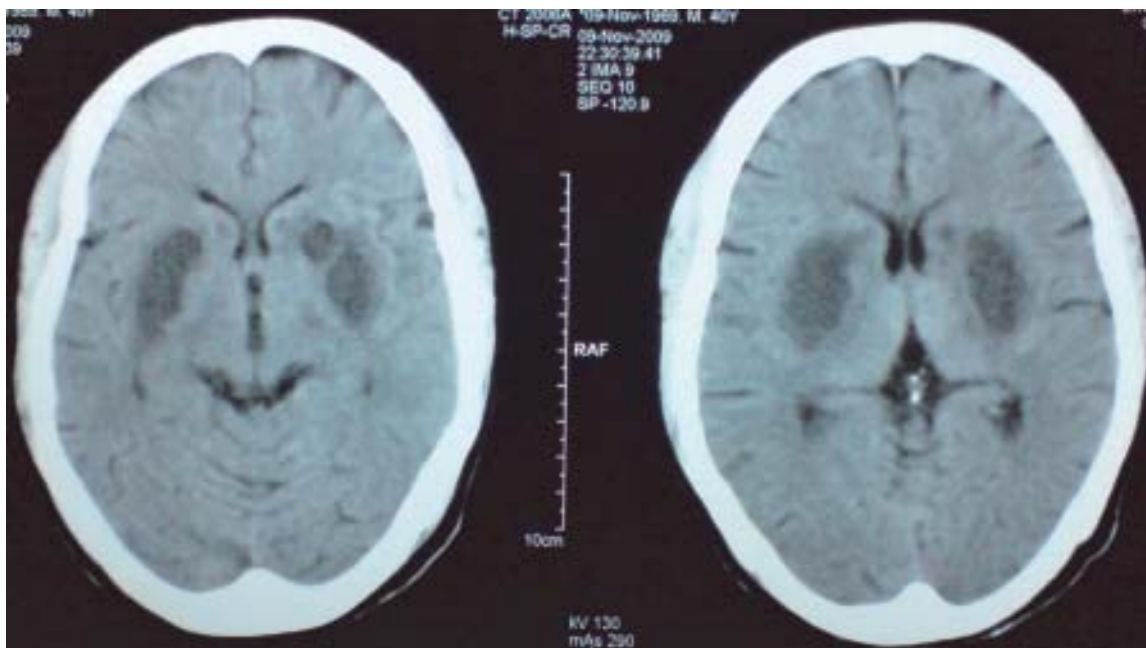


Fig.-1: Non contrast axial CT scan of the Head showing bilateral symmetrical hypodense shadows in the regions of putamen.

A 35-year-old male reported at department of Medicine, Dhaka Medical College Hospital with unconsciousness after taking 300 ml of local alcohol (Methanol). He had no other significant past medical history. Clinical examinations revealed all vital parameters were within normal limit but neurological examination revealed GCS 8/15, all deep tendon reflexes were diminished, planter reflexes were bilaterally extensor. CT scan of the head revealed bilateral, symmetrical, hypodense shadows in the area of putamen due to toxic necrosis.

Methanol toxicity can cause brain oedema, necrosis, brain atrophy and cerebral hemorrhage.¹ Putaminal necrosis result

from the direct toxic effects of the methanol metabolites and metabolic acidosis in the basal ganglia.¹ The typical appearance of bilateral putaminal necrosis in CT scan are bilateral, symmetrical hypodense shadows in the area of Putamen as characteristic of methanol toxicity.²

References

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2. Glazer M, Dross P. Necrosis of the Putamen Caused by Methanol Intoxication:MR Findings. AJR 1993;160:1105-06.

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