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TITLE PAGE

A UNEXPECTED CAUSE OF BILATERAL RETINAL HEMORRHAGES IN A 4 MONTH OLD BOY

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Case

A four month old with macrocephaly had an unprovoked seizure. There was no evidence of external injury. A head CT (computerized tomography) scan demonstrated a very small acute hemorrhage in the left posterior subdural region. A skeletal survey was normal. An eye exam revealed multiple multilayer hemorrhages bilaterally (images). A head MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scan revealed a small cortical venous clot (image).

Discussion

Retinal hemorrhages in infants are commonly thought to suggest abusive head injury.¹ Although possible, in this case there was no external or bony injury. A recent study has documented that the condition occurs as well in cerebral sinovenous thrombosis.² As retinal hemorrhages typically result from leakage from retinal veins, the mechanism most likely involves raised intracranial pressure. This case confirms this association.

References

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