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## ***Thalamic Bacterial Abscess Presenting with Hemiparesis and Expressive Aphasia***

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### **Abstract**

Brain abscesses are relative rare in the developing world, with an incidence of 2% of all space occupying lesions. Deep-seated abscesses such as thalamic and basal ganglia abscesses are much rarer than abscesses in other locations of the brain, comprising 1.3-6% of all brain abscesses. These abscesses may present with hemiparesis, and subcortical aphasia has only been reported in a few cases throughout the literature. Here we present and discuss a case of thalamic brain abscess caused by *S. anginosus* that presented with subcortical aphasia.

### **Keywords:**

Thalamic abscess; subcortical aphasia; Streptococcus anginosus

### **Introduction**

The *Streptococcus anginosus* group includes three taxonomically distinct species: *Streptococcus anginosus*, *Streptococcus intermedius* and *Streptococcus constellatus*. These organisms are found as commensal flora of the oropharyngeal, gastrointestinal and urogenital tract, but they can become pathogenic and unlike most other alpha-hemolytic streptococci cause contiguous or metastatic infection after mucosal disruption.(1) Of the three species, *S. anginosus* shows the greatest propensity for metastatic dissemination.

Brain abscesses are relatively rare in the developing world, with an incidence of 2% of all space occupying lesions.(2) Deep-seated abscesses such as thalamic and basal ganglia abscesses are much rarer than abscesses in other locations of the brain with reported incidences ranging from 1.3-6% of all brain abscesses.(3), (4), (5), (6), (7) We present and discuss a case of thalamic brain abscess caused by *S. anginosus* that presented with subcortical aphasia.

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