

MRI of trigeminal zoster

RNM do zoster trigeminal

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A 73 year-old man with remote history of zoster ophthalmicus developed painful vesicular rash inside his mouth after a stressful dental procedure for implants. The rash spread to involve the left side of his face, and he developed severe left-sided stabbing facial pain. On MRI, there was abnormal hyperintense T2 signal (Figure) along

the expected course of the nucleus of the spinal tract of the trigeminal nerve¹, which was consistent with trigeminal zoster². Abnormal signal within the spinal trigeminal nucleus has been described in trigeminal zoster, Ramsay-Hunt syndrome, and in trigeminal neuropathy associated with herpes labialis^{2,3,4}.

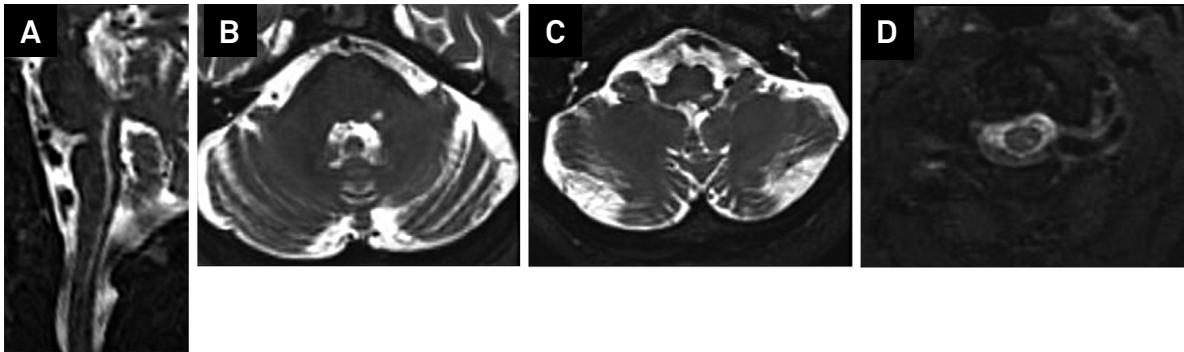


Figure. MRI of trigeminal zoster. (A) Sagittal oblique T2 SPACE image reconstructed from the axial dataset shows abnormal longitudinal hyperintense signal along the expected course of the nucleus of the spinal tract of the trigeminal nerve extending from the lower pons into the dorsal upper cervical cord. (B, C, and D) Axial T2 SPACE images show abnormal hyperintense signal in the expected location of the nucleus in the dorsal pons (B), medulla (C), and upper cervical cord (D) on the left.

References

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Conflict of interest: There is no conflict of interest to declare.

Received 27 May 2015; Received in final form 02 June 2015; Accepted 22 June 2015.