

Bilateral Globus Pallidus Lesions

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Clinical Image

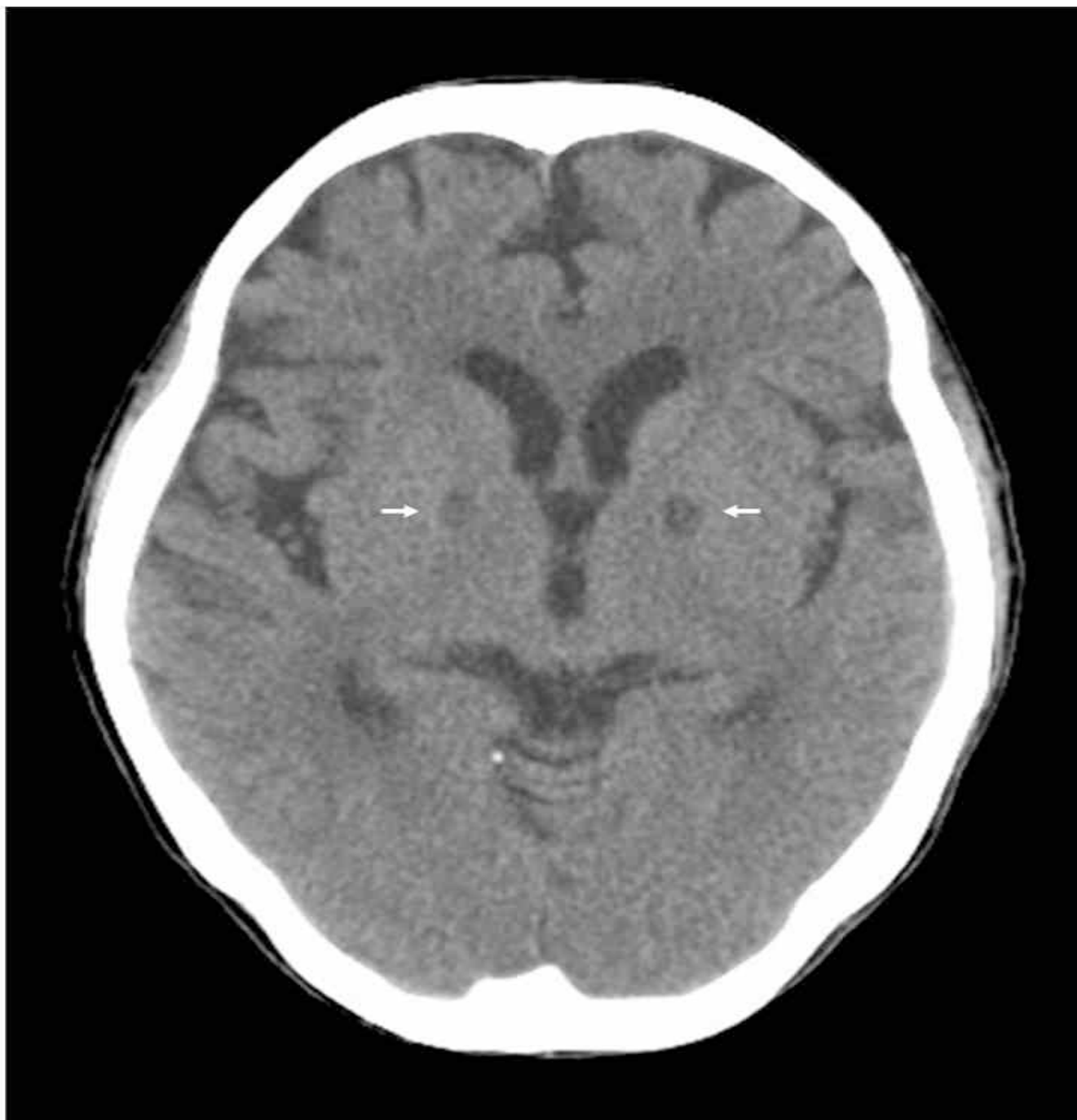


Image Description

A 68-year-old woman with bronchiectasis and home oxygen therapy was transferred to the emergency department of our hospital because of cardiopulmonary arrest. She reportedly complained of dyspnea and was found unconscious about 2 hours later. After successful cardiac resuscitation with artificial ventilation, she was still in coma and pupillary light reflexes were absent. Noncontrast computed tomography of the brain showed normal findings except for low-density areas in the bilateral globus pallidus (Figure, arrows). A final diagnosis of asphyxia due to aspiration was made. She had shown no neurologic recovery in the clinical course. Follow-up computed tomography, performed 2 weeks after admission, showed extensive brain damage due to hypoxia. She was transferred to another hospital in a vegetative state.

Globus pallidus (Latin for “pale globe”) [1] is a major component of the basal ganglia and is known to be especially vulnerable to hypoxia [2]. In our case, globus pallidus was literally depicted as “pale globe” on computed tomography.

References

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