Acute basilar artery occlusion

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Basilar artery occlusion usually has a very poor outcome and is associated with a high mortality rate [1]. We report a case of a 38-year-old man who was brought to hospital deeply unconscious with a Glasgow Coma Score of 3 and wide unresponsive pupils. CCT and angiography revealed complete occlusion of the basilar artery (Fig. 1). Recanalisation by intraarterial thrombolysis with 800.000 U of urokinase was effective 120 minutes after onset of symptoms (Fig. 2). The patient recovered completely within 32 hours. In contrast to the carotid territory, there are no placebo-controlled studies proving the efficacy of thrombolytic treatment for the vertebrobasilar territory. Several uncontrolled series however, indicate that intraarterial thrombolysis reduces mortality of patients with basilar artery occlusion [2].

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References

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