

# Ruptured dermoid cyst of Meckel's cave: an unusual mimic of deep cerebral venous thrombosis

Elif N Unlu<sup>1</sup>

Omer Kocak<sup>1</sup>

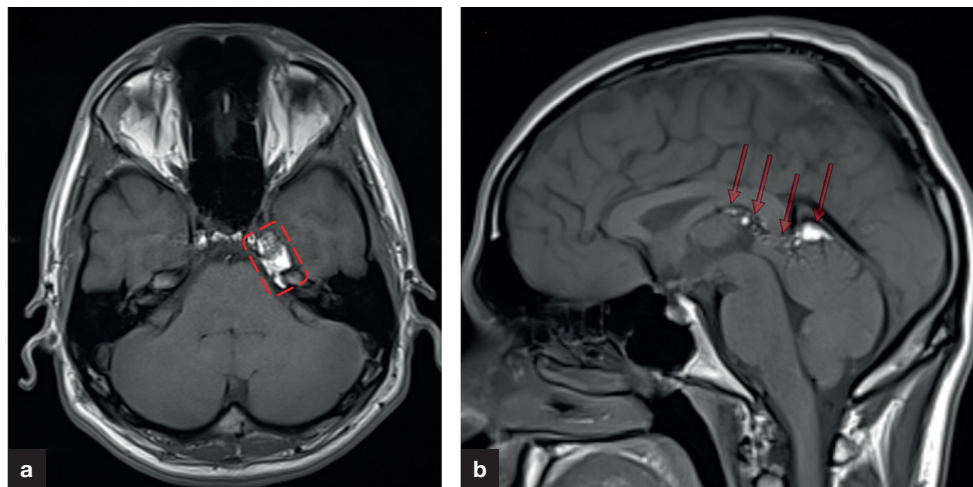
Hayri Ogul<sup>1</sup>

Author details can be found at the end of this article

Correspondence to:

Hayri Ogul;  
drhogul@gmail.com

A 22-year-old woman with complaints of headache and vomiting was referred to the authors' radiology department for further examination. T1-weighted magnetic resonance imaging showed a heterogeneously hyperintense lesion in the left Meckel's cave (**Figure 1a**) and curvilinear pathological hyperintensities along the vena cerebri magna and deep cerebral veins (**Figure 1b**). The bright signal areas suspected to be venous thrombosis were isointense with subcutaneous fat in all sequences. These signals were described as secondary to rupture of a dermoid cyst in Meckel's cave.



**Figure 1.** a. Axial T1-weighted magnetic resonance image showing a hyperintense dermoid cyst (frame) in the left Meckel's cave. b. Sagittal T1-weighted magnetic resonance image revealing high signal areas (arrows) along the vena cerebri magna and deep cerebral veins.

Intracranial dermoid cysts are rare slow-growing benign tumours, and comprise 0.04–0.7% of intracranial tumours (Kucera et al, 2011). Dermoid cysts include lipid material, which appears hyperintense on T1-weighted magnetic resonance images as well as in venous thrombosis (Orakcioglu et al, 2008). If an intracranial dermoid cyst is sited close to venous structures, it may be misdiagnosed as a venous thrombosis. Radiologists must be aware of this possibility.

## Author details

<sup>1</sup>Department of Radiology, Medical Faculty, Duzce University, Duzce, Turkey

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