

## **Bilateral Carotid Artery Dissection**

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42 years female involved in a high speed motor vehicle accident was brought into A&E . ABC were maintained. GCS on admission was 14/15. CT Scan showed no brain injury. Eight hours later conscious level decreased to GCS 7. Repeat CT Scan of the head showed left temporal contusion , right parietal hypodense lesion (?contusion) without midline shift and basal cisterns were visualised. Decision was made to sedate, intubate and ventilate.

48 hours after injury, patients neurologic response was poor despite being off sedation. CT scan showed evidence of parietal /frontal contusion (? Evolving infarction). USG Doppler of the carotid arteries showed bilateral narrowing of the internal carotid arteries suggestive of dissection. Transcranial Doppler monitoring of the middle cerebral arteries demonstrated showers of emboli. Anti coagulation was initiated with iv heparin, Clpidogrel and tirofiban . CT angiography of the neck confirmed the presence of dissection of both carotid arteries The patient regained consciousness after 8 days with weakness in the upper limbs. Early diagnosis of carotid dissection and treatment with anticoagulants could have shortened her ITU and hospital stay apart from decreasing her morbidity. Doppler duplex imaging to rule out carotid artery dissection should be considered in all patients having decreased conscious level unexplained by CT findings.