#### **Stroke Mimics**

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Robert Del Grande

### Disclosures: Nada Speaker: Dr. Robert Del Grande

#### What is a TIA/Stroke?

- Acute onset focal neurological deficit of vascular origin
  - < 24 hrs: TIA</p>
  - [1-7 days: RIND]
  - > 1-7 days: Stroke

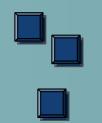
#### 'Mimics'

- Migraine
- Syncope
- Seizure
- Vertigo
- Transient Global Amnesia
- Anxiety / Conversion Reaction
- Peripheral Nerve Palsy
- Other

# Mimics Not Included; Also...

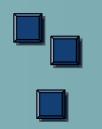
- Other IC pathologies: Ca, ICH, CNS infection, MS, PRES
- NB: CT scans DO NOT DIAGNOSE CVAs, clinicians do!
- In general CTs are not sensitive; sometimes not specific NB Virchow-Robin spaces
- A normal CT scan does NOT R/O a CVA

# 30% of ER 'TIAs/Strokes' are not.



# Mimics: How to Spot

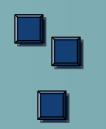
- History
- History
- History



#### Mimics: How to Spot

What do you need to ask?

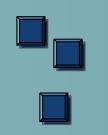
- Onset: Slow or fast
- Area/Modality affected
- What was patient doing at the time?
- Associated Symptoms
- Past History
- Pre-event likelihood



#### Other Features

- Focal signs vs focal symptoms
- Fainting/LOC, dizziness, generalized weakness: rarely TIA/CVA

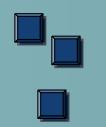
# Migraine



### Migraine

- Common
- Classic
- Ophthalmoplegic
- Hemiplegic

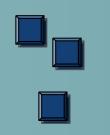
# Syncope/Presyncope



## Syncope/Presyncope

- LOC almost never TIA/CVA
- Look for typical history/symptoms
- Watch for Cardiac causes

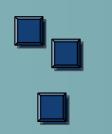
#### Seizures



#### Seizures

- Tonic-Clonic: no brainer
- Partial complex: More complex
- Todd's Paralysis: May have missed index seizure
- Seizures occur rarely with Acute CVAs





#### Vertigo

- Peripheral vs Central
- Peripheral:
  - ► BPPV: Dix-Hallpike
  - ► Acute Labyrinthitis: HINTS
  - ▶ Meniere's Disease

# Transient Global Amnesia

# Transient Global Amnesia

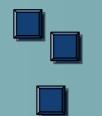
- Sudden disorder of memory
- Basic level of function usually maintained
- 'Confusion', repetitive questions
- Not a TIA/CVA; not a SZ; no idea what it is!

#### **Anxiety / Conversion Reaction**

# Anxiety / Conversion Reaction

- Often 'doesn't make sense'
- Hyperventilation
- Conversion Disorder
  - Inconsistent with normal anatomy/function
  - Hoover Sign
  - Abductor Sign

#### Peripheral Neuropathy

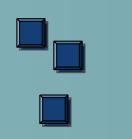


## Peripheral Neuropathy

- Bell's Palsy
- CTS, Ulnar/Radial Neuropathy
- Meralgia Paresthetica
- Peroneal Nerve Palsy



#### Other



#### Other

- Motor Neurone Disease
- Polymyositis