

E-Pearl of the Week

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Stroke mimics

Almost 20% of patients presenting to emergency rooms with presumed strokes may have a non-vascular cause of their symptoms (a “stroke mimic”). The 4 most common stroke mimics are seizures, brain tumor, systemic infection, and toxic-metabolic encephalopathy. In one study, clinical features that predicted a “true stroke” as opposed to a “stroke mimic” were the presence of angina and the absence of loss of consciousness.

For details, see Libman RB, Wirkowski E, Alvir J, Rao TH. Conditions that mimic stroke in the ED. *Arch Neurol* 1995; 52(11):1119-22.

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