



## ORAL PRESENTATION

# Stroke as presenting symptom of neurosyphilis: a case report

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Syphilis is an infectious disease caused by *Treponema pallidum* and it is transmitted sexually. It affects various organs and its clinical manifestations can be intriguing. The central nervous system is affected in less than 10% of patients with syphilis.

**Case Report:** A 43-year-old Caucasian woman presented in the emergency room with right hemiparesis. Apart from smoking, she had no relevant history. There was no family

history of stroke. MRI showed an ischaemic lesion on the left side of the brainstem. Because there was no clear cause for stroke, we performed additional tests, including a lumbar puncture. It showed a positive VDRL and the diagnosis of neurosyphilis was made.

**Conclusion:** The patient was treated with benzylpenicillin and made a good recovery.

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