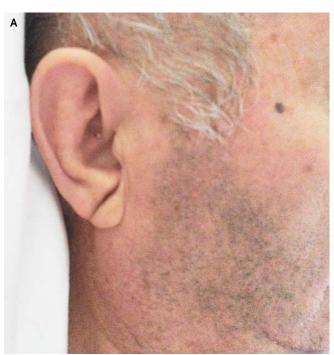
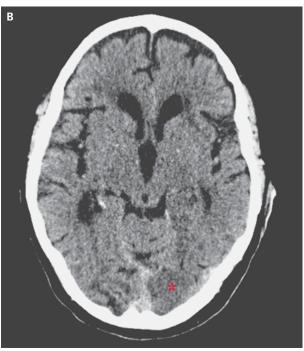
IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

Bilateral Earlobe Creases





Gustavo Zapata-Wainberg, M.D. Jose Vivancos, M.D., Ph.D.

Hospital Universitario de La Princesa Madrid, Spain gzapatawainberg@gmail.com N 84-YEAR-OLD MAN WITH HYPERTENSION, DIABETES, AND HYPERCHOlesterolemia presented to the emergency department with a 6-hour history of visual difficulty. Physical examination revealed a right homonymous hemianopia and no other relevant neurologic findings. A diagonal crease in each earlobe (Frank's sign) was noted (Panel A). Urgent computed tomography revealed a subacute occipital infarction in the territory of the left posterior cerebral artery (Panel B, asterisk), as well as many other old ischemic lesions. Frank's sign was originally described as a marker of coronary artery disease, with a moderate sensitivity (approximately 48%) and specificity (approximately 88%). This sign has been subsequently associated with other cardiovascular risk factors. The patient was treated conservatively, his course was uneventful, and he was discharged home 1 week after presentation, with persistence of the visual deficit.

DOI: 10.1056/NEJMicm1213006
Copyright © 2013 Massachusetts Medical Society.