Neuroimaging Pharmacopoeia

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The authors dedicate this book to the wonderful field or neuroradiology and head and neck imaging, the great advances and discoveries in pharmacology, and to a healthy and (illicit) drug-free world.

Foreword

What you have in front of you is a highly original, different, and useful publication and the only one of its kind in all of diagnostic radiology. The classic definition of "pharmacopoeia" is that of a book containing directions for the identification and preparation of drugs or a list of drugs and their uses. So, in a classic sense, this book is not a pharmacopoeia but something that goes beyond one. Each chapter describes one medication or drug and its indications and action mechanisms, and although in many instances this would suffice to be considered a pharmacopoeia, the authors go further and present a unique and complete series of high-quality neuroimaging studies that reflect the side effects and complications of the drugs discussed. It is, in my opinion, the best and most complete collection of this sort of images that I have even come across, and there is no question that it will be very helpful to neuroradiologists, radiologists, emergency physicians, and many others. Although are shorter than others, all 55 chapters are excellent. Just perusing through the images is fun, eye opening, and informative.

Dr. Schaefer, Small, and Ginat join many of the great, Avicenna, Galen, Vesalius and others who in the past have discussed the use of drugs in pharmacopeias. My recommendations: buy the book- you will not be disappointed, look at the images- you will be entertained, read the book- you will be a better radiologist, and keep the book handy- you will help your patients.

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Preface

Various medicinal and illicit drugs can result in serious complications affecting the brain, head and neck, and spine. Many of these complications are visible on imaging. In addition, less serious complications or innocuous effects can result in diagnostic conundrums for the imaging interpreter unaware of the patient's drug exposures or their imaging manifestations, while others may produce rather characteristic changes on imaging that should be readily recognized as such. Until now, imaging interpreters have been unable to turn to a dedicated source of information relating to this subject. In this work, we have compiled a fairly comprehensive review of the imaging features of the effects of drugs and pharmaceuticals, from A to Z.

Considering the widespread use of medicinal and illicit drug use throughout the world, familiarity with this subject is critical for the imaging interpreter. Thus, the goal of *Neuroimaging Pharmacopoeia* is to serve as a resource for recognizing these effects and formulating an appropriate differential diagnosis. The term *pharmacopoeia* is derived from the two Greek words *pharmakon* for medicine and *poiein* to make. As such, a pharmacopeia is a compilation of medicinal or pharmacological drugs with their formulas, methods of preparation, effects, and directions of use.

This text represents an adaptation of the classical pharmacopeia, in which each chapter essentially comprises an illustrated pharmacological vignette comprising the indications, mechanism of action, discussion, differential diagnosis, and relevant figures for general classes or specific drugs. Although pharmacology is a dynamic field with perpetual development of new agents, this text provides a fundamental approach for understanding and interpreting neuroimaging studies in patients with drug-induced changes. This knowledge can in turn be used to help optimize patient management in certain cases.

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Tobacco

1

Michael C. Veronesi and Daniel Thomas Ginat

1.1 Uses

Although tobacco use is legal, it is not recommended or prescribed for any therapeutic or medicinal purposes. It is smoked or chewed for recreational use as a potent temporary stimulant and mood elevator.

1.2 Mechanism

Nicotine, the primary active compound in cigarettes, is considered one of the most addictive of all substances because of its rapid onset and offset effects on the brain's dopamine reward systems. Inhaled nicotine can distribute in the brain within 10 s of inhalation but lasts mere seconds, causing a powerful urge for more. Of note, the long-term devastating sequela from smoking as it relates to neurologic disease are only partially explained by nicotine. Aside from nicotine, tobacco contains over six thousand other chemical compounds. In particular, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and the tobacco-specific nitrosamine 4-(methylnitrosamino)-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone have been implicated as the major carcinogens associated with cigarette smoking. Additional details regarding the mechanisms of action for specific conditions are discussed in subsequent sections.

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1.3 Discussion

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. An estimated 400,000 deaths or nearly one of every five deaths in the United States is associated with adverse conditions caused by smoking each year. Nearly every organ system is affected by cigarette smoking. The associated manifestations of cigarette smoking from a neuroimaging standpoint include the direct link between smoking and large vessels and lacunar infarcts, chronic small vessel ischemic disease, cerebral aneurysms, cerebral venous thrombosis, head and neck cancer of the squamous type, lung cancer metastases to the brain, and Warthin tumors.

1.3.1 Stroke

Compared with nonsmokers, cigarette smoking is estimated to increase the risk of stroke by 2–4-fold. Of note, stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States with significant comorbidity in survivors. Mechanisms by which primary and second-hand tobacco smoke exposure increase the risk of stroke and heart disease

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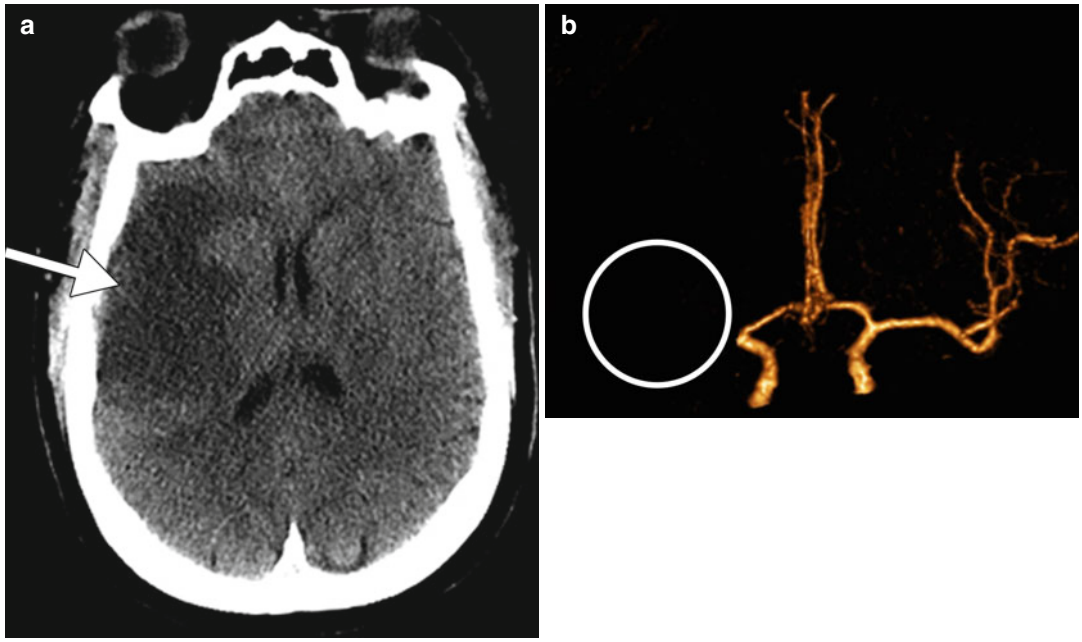

Fig. 1.1 Embolic infarct. This smoker presented with acute left hemiplegia. Non-contrast axial CT image (**a**) shows a hypoattenuation within the right MCA territory (*arrow*). 3D CTA image (**b**) shows occlusion of the right MCA (expected location *encircled*)

include carboxyhemoglobinemia, increased platelet aggregation, increased fibrinogen levels, reduced HDL cholesterol, and direct toxic effects of compounds such as 1,3-butadiene, a vapor phase constituent of environmental tobacco smoke that has been shown to accelerate atherosclerosis. Indeed, atherosclerosis and formation of both occlusive and embolic thrombi are the major causes of cerebrovascular accidents. Smoking is also associated with lacunar infarcts and chronic small vessel ischemic disease. Smoking cessation results in a considerable reduction in stroke risk.

On conventional angiography, CTA or MRA, atherosclerosis manifests as luminal narrowing that may be associated with calcifications. Acute embolic thrombus is suggested by intraluminal high attenuation on non-contrast CT, such as the hyperdense MCA sign, and manifests as an abrupt termination of the artery with absence of flow distally on CTA, MRA, or conventional angiography (Figs. 1.1). Hyperacute infarcts are often unapparent on non-contrast CT, but acute and early subacute infarcts can appear as areas of hypoattenuation with loss of gray white matter differentiation and swelling. MRI with diffusion-weighted imaging is more sensitive for detecting early infarcts, which appear as areas of high T2 signal and restricted diffusion (Fig. 1.2). Besides smoking, other causes and risk factors for stroke include hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, diabetes, use of other drugs, such as cocaine and amphetamines (refer to Chaps. 5 and 6), dissection (Fig. 1.3), and vasculitis, such as lupus or Takayasu arteritis (Fig. 1.4). In addition to large territorial infarcts, smokers are prone to more extensive small vessel ischemic disease, which can manifest as areas of high T2 signal in the cerebral white matter (Fig. 1.5).

1.3.2 Cerebral Aneurysm

Besides smoking, additional risk factors that predispose to aneurysm formation include fenestrated arteries (Fig. 1.6), fibromuscular dysplasia, neurofibromatosis, alpha-1-antytripsyn deficiency, and

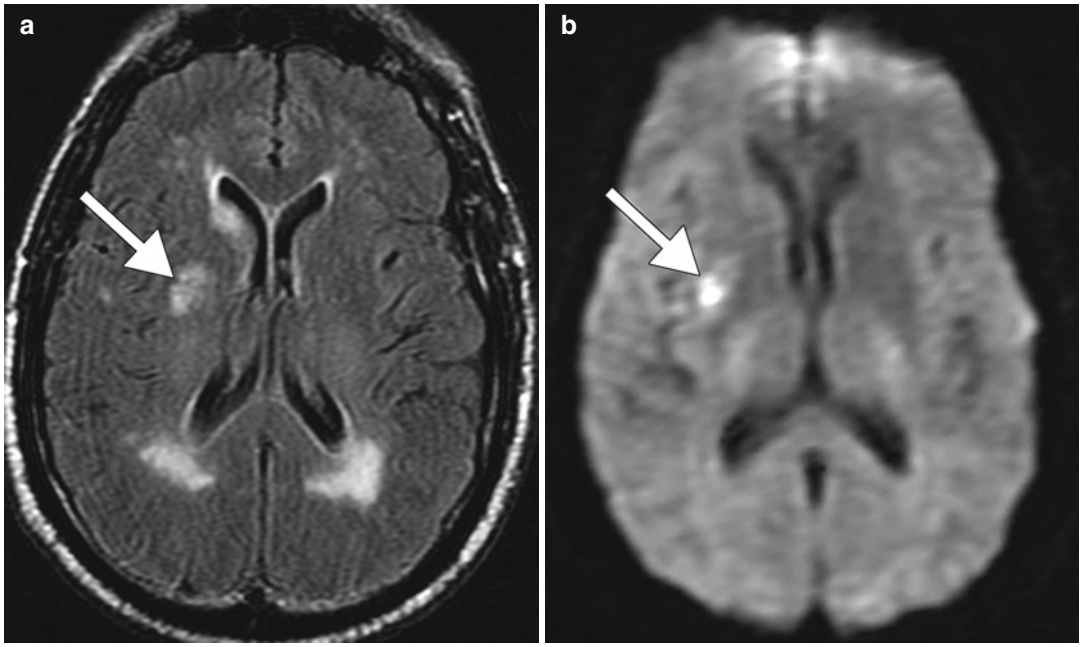

Fig. 1.2 Lacunar infarct and small vessel ischemic disease. The patient is a smoker who presented with acute neurological deficits. Axial FLAIR (**a**) and DWI (**b**) images show a recent right basal ganglia lacunar infarct (*arrows*). There is also diffuse, confluent periventricular white matter T2 hyperintensity as well as mild scattered, punctate subcortical white matter T2 hyperintense foci without corresponding restricted diffusion, which is consistent with chronic small vessel ischemic disease

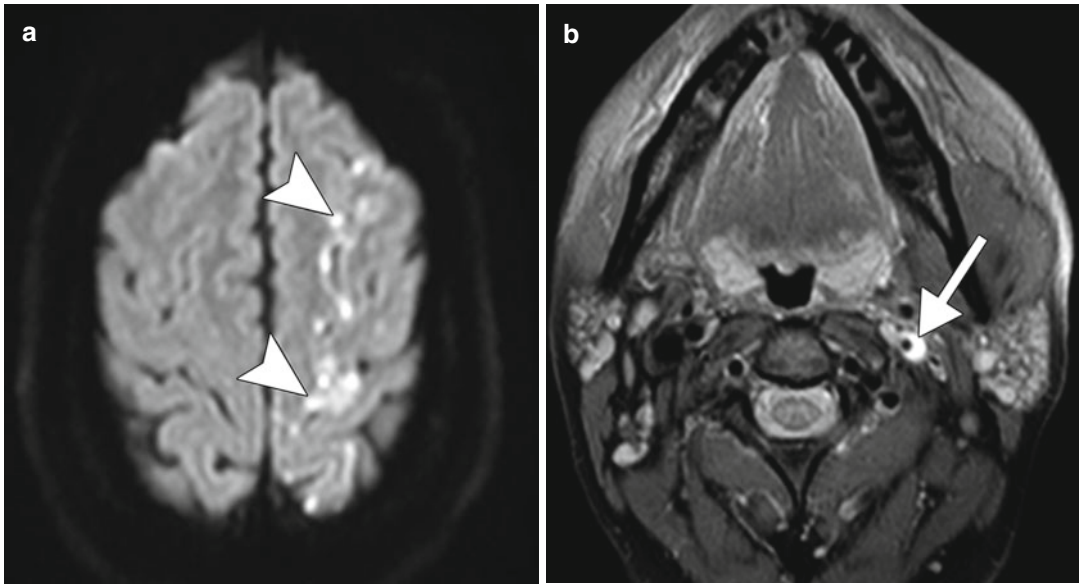

Fig. 1.3 Carotid dissection. Axial DWI (**a**) shows restricted diffusion in the left ACA-MCA watershed territory (*arrowheads*). The axial fat-suppressed T1 MRA (**b**) shows hyperintensity surrounding the narrow left internal carotid artery flow void, compatible with intramural hemorrhage (*arrow*)

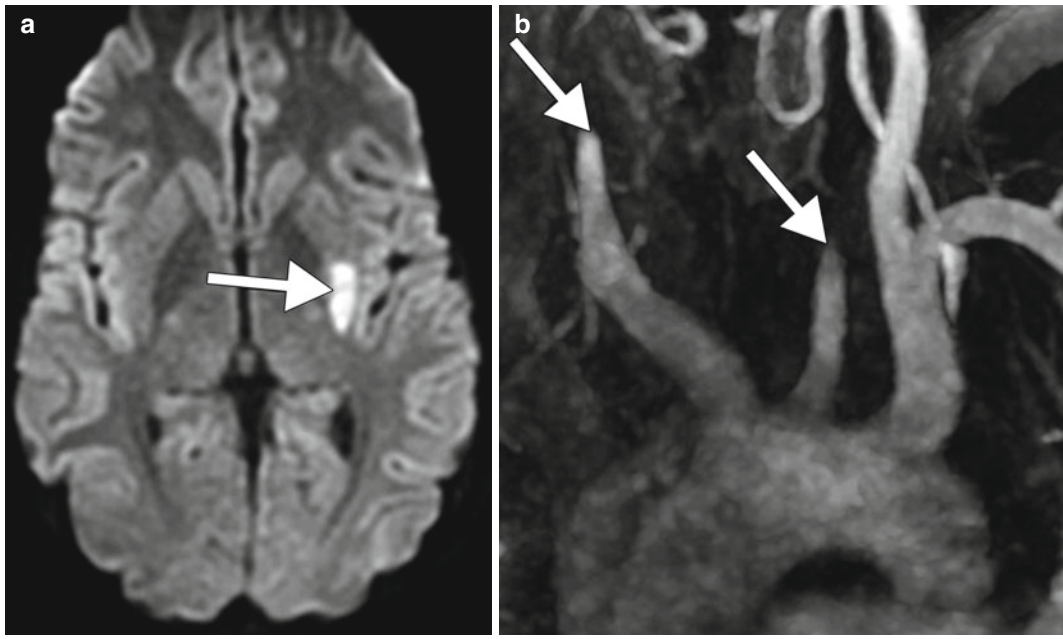

Fig. 1.4 Takayasu arteritis. Axial DWI (**a**) shows a focus of restricted diffusion in the left external capsule (*arrows*). MIP MRA (**b**) shows lack of flow-related enhancement beyond the proximal common carotid arteries bilaterally (*arrows*)

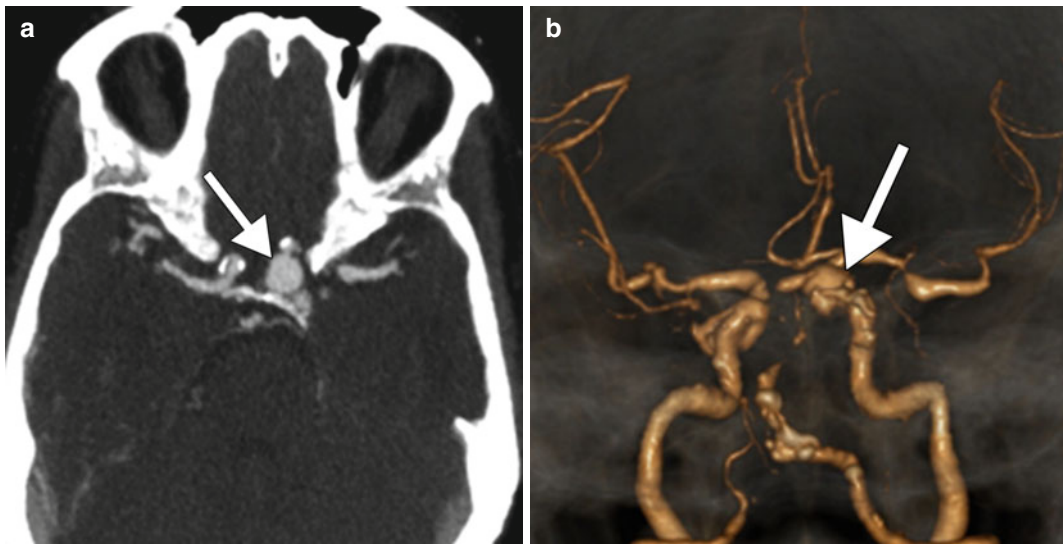

Fig. 1.5 Cerebral aneurysm. A former 20-pack-year smoker underwent evaluation for a suspected stroke. Axial (**a**) and 3D volume rendered (**b**) CTA images show a left paraclinoid internal carotid artery saccular aneurysm (*arrow*). There is also extensive atherosclerotic narrowing of the cerebral vasculature noted in both the anterior and posterior circulation bilaterally

connective tissue disorders, such as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and Marfan's syndrome and polycystic kidney disease. Otherwise, the differential diagnosis of a cerebral aneurysm on radiologic imaging includes an infundibulum (usually manifests as a triangular dilatation with the vessel arising from the apex that measures less than 2 mm), pseudoaneurysm, and mycotic aneurysm (Fig. 1.7).

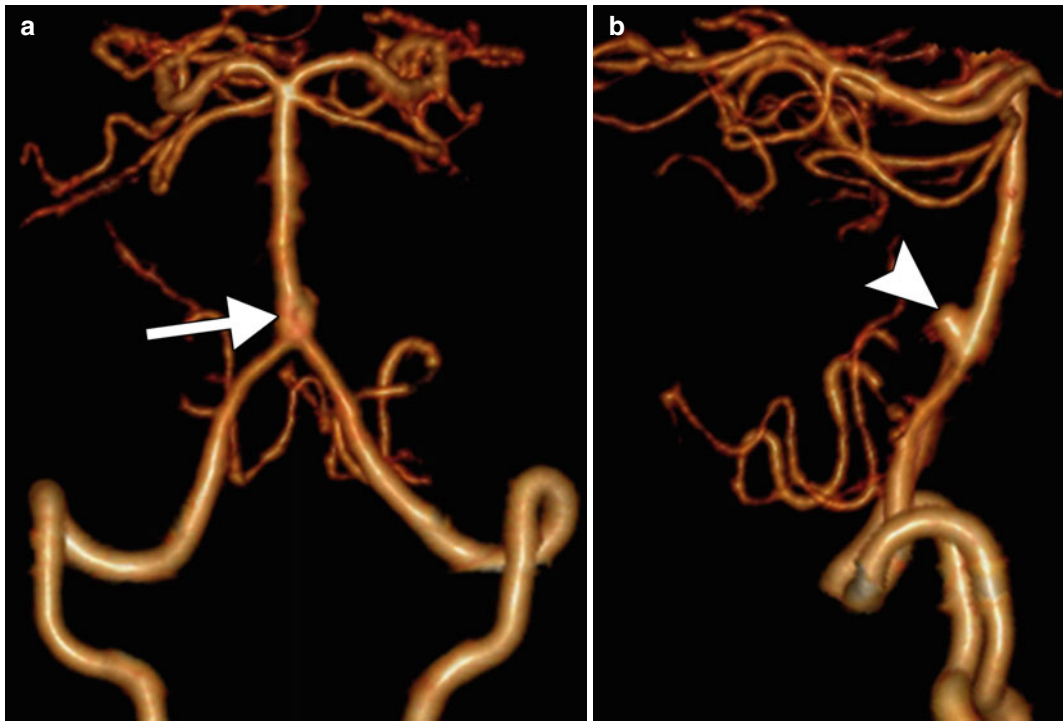

Fig. 1.6 Arterial fenestration. Frontal projection 3D volume rendered CTA image (**a**) shows a fenestration of the proximal basilar artery (*arrow*). Lateral projection 3D volume rendered CTA image (**b**) shows a dorsally oriented aneurysm arising from the caudal aspect of the fenestration (*arrowhead*)

1.3.3 Cerebral Venous Thrombosis

Secondary polycythemia due to chronic smoking is a risk factor developing cerebral venous thrombosis. Refer to the L-asparaginase and oral contraceptives chapters (Chaps. 21 and 47) for examples of venous thrombosis on imaging.

1.3.4 Head and Neck Cancer, Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Tobacco smoking, along with alcohol, is well established as the dominant risk factor for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC). This risk is correlated with the intensity and duration of tobacco use and is synergistic with concomitant alcohol consumption. There are more than sixty recognized compounds in tobacco that have a specific carcinogenic potential. In particular, nitrosamines and polycyclic hydrocarbons can alter the molecular profile of an individual and causes mutations. Nicotine, originally thought only to be responsible for tobacco addiction, is also involved in tumor promotion and progression with antiapoptotic and indirect mitogenic properties. Other factors that can increase the risk of HNSCC include HPV infection and certain occupational exposures. Imaging with contrast-enhanced CT and MRI allows depiction of the anatomy of the larynx and submucosal tumor extension.

Dual-energy CT improves the diagnostic performance and interobserver reproducibility of evaluations of laryngeal cartilage invasion by squamous cell carcinoma. CT, MRI, and PET-CT also provide information regarding cervical nodal disease, systemic metastases, and synchronous malignancies.

On CT or MRI, head and neck squamous cell carcinomas often manifest as ill-defined enhancing masses. Aggressive features of

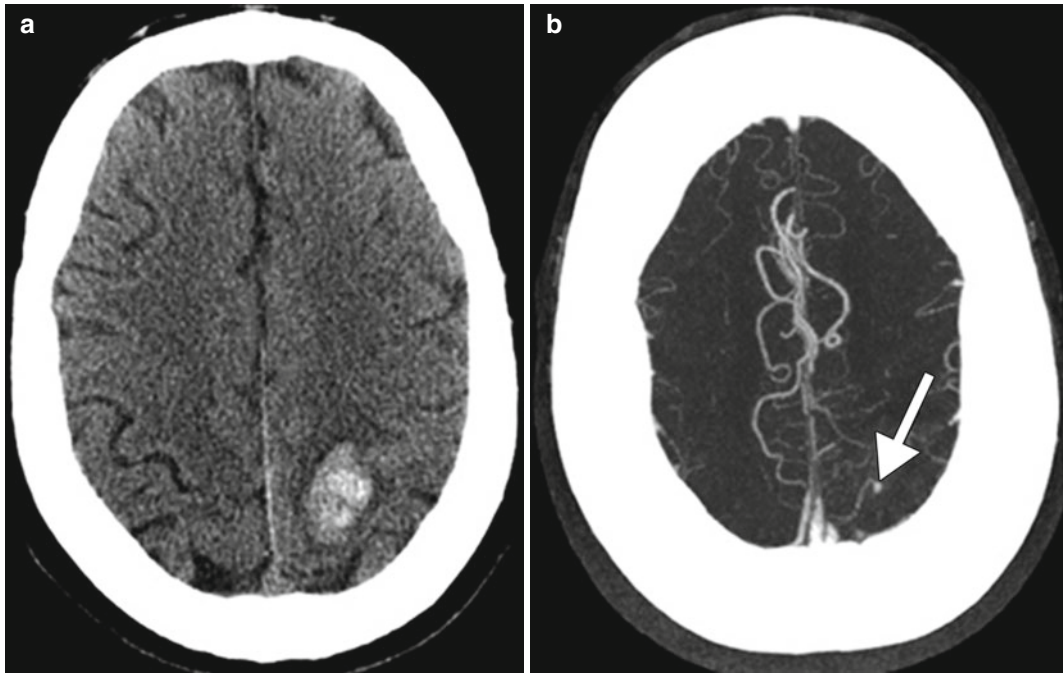

Fig. 1.7 Mycotic aneurysm. Axial CT image (**a**) shows left peri-rolandic hemorrhage. Axial MIP CTA image (**b**) shows a small outpouching arising from a cortical artery (*arrow*)

HNSCC include tissue invasion and necrosis (Fig. 1.8). The most common sites of head and neck squamous cell cancer are the floor of the mouth, tongue, soft palate, anterior tonsillar pillar, and retromolar trigone. In addition to locoregional spread, HNSCC can metastasize to distant organs hematogenously, most commonly to the lungs and bones. Metastasis to the brain is an infrequent, but carries a poor prognostic outcome (Fig. 1.9). Besides smoking, alcohol (refer to Chap. 2), betel nuts (refer to Chap. 8), and HPV are the other major risk factors for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. Interestingly, HPV-positive squamous cell carcinomas generally have a more favorable prognosis and tend to have tumors that are relatively well-defined and large cystic nodal metastases (Fig. 1.10). Otherwise, the differential for other malignant cancers in the head and neck include thyroid cancer, lymphoma, salivary gland cancer, and sarcoma. Furthermore, head and neck abscesses can sometimes resemble necrotic or ulcerated head and neck squamous cell carcinomas and nodal metastases (Fig. 1.11).

1.3.5 Brain Metastases

In addition to HNSCC, smoking has been shown to be a risk factor for the formation of several other types of cancers, including lung cancer, acute myeloid leukemia, bladder cancer, cervical cancer, renal cancer, esophageal cancer, gastric cancer, pancreatic cancer, and colorectal cancer. The majority of these cancers have at least some potential for metastasizing to the brain, which is the most feared complication of systemic malignancies. If no one smoked, one of every three cancer deaths in the United States would be avoided. Lung cancer has the highest association with smoking, causing an estimated 90 % of all lung cancer deaths in men and 80 % of all lung cancer deaths in women, and is the most common cancer that metastasizes to the brain. Nicotine-derived nitrosamine ketone (NNK) has