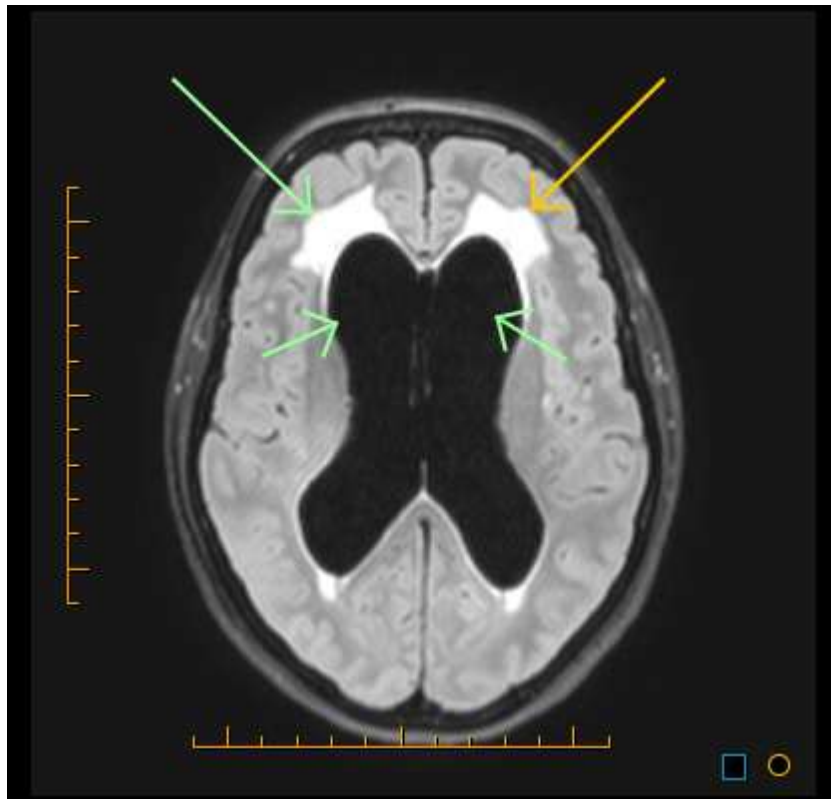


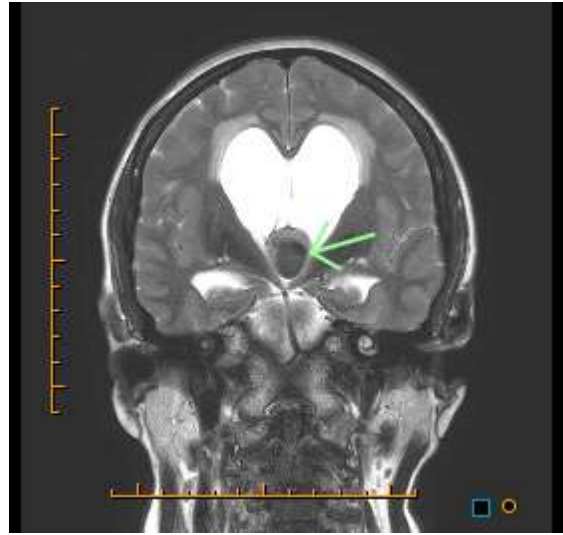
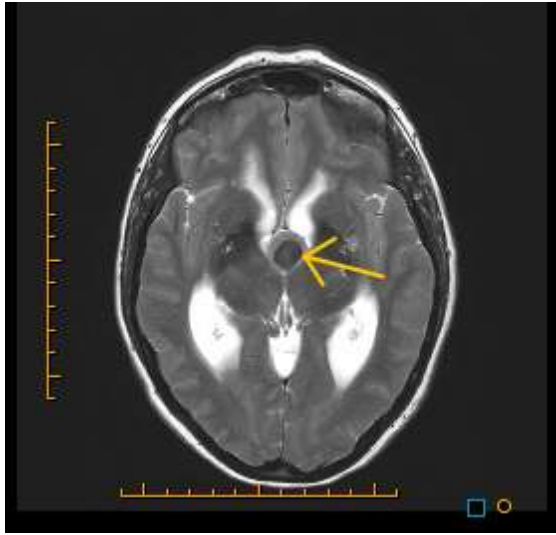
## LARGE ATYPICAL COLLOID CYST CAUSING HYDROCEPHALUS

Middle-aged patient with several weeks of headaches, impaired memory, and balance problems.

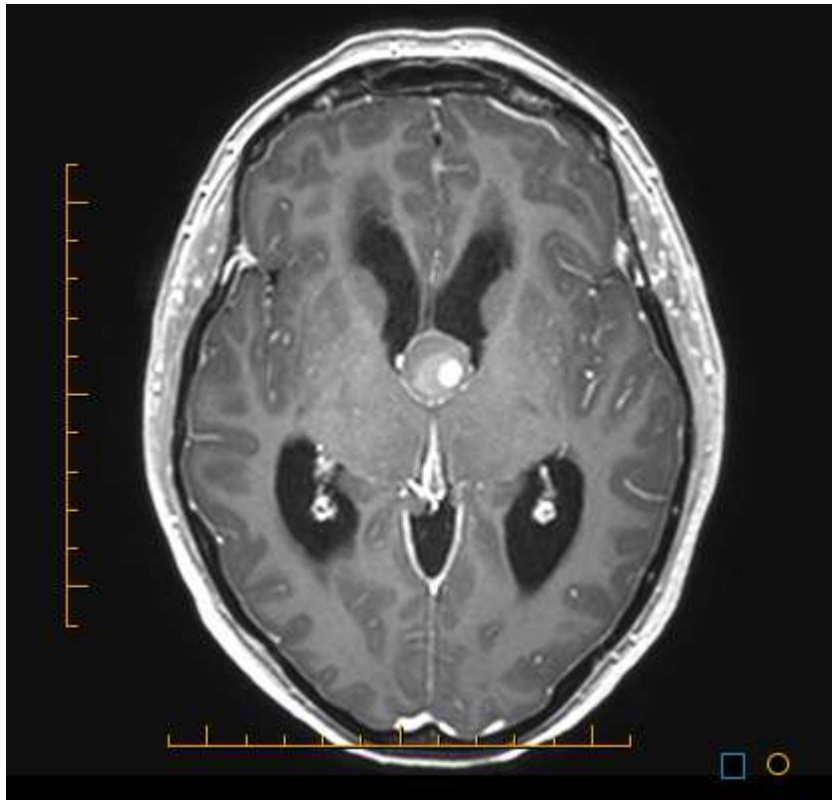
Axial FLAIR image (below) shows marked enlargement of the lateral ventricles (small arrows) and increased fluid within the paraventricular white matter (large arrows), in keeping with acute hydrocephalus and impaired cerebral hydrodynamics.



The hydrocephalus is due to obstruction of the foramina of Munro (which drain the lateral ventricles into the anterior aspect of the third ventricle) by a rounded mass (arrow on images below) which lies at the anterior aspect of the third ventricle.



Following contrast administration, the lesion shows some central and faint peripheral enhancement (below).



Colloid cysts are benign lesions which almost exclusively occur at the anterior aspect of the third ventricle. They occur most frequently in the third and fourth decades and become problematic when their growth results in hydrocephalus, which may be fatal if severe and acute.

Treatment of choice is complete surgical excision, although urgent ventricular shunting may be needed in cases with acute and severe hydrocephalus.

This example is slightly atypical in that the lesion has mixed signal and shows enhancement.

The differential diagnosis for a lesion in this location is small and includes basilar tip aneurysms, neurocysticercosis, and other tumours, none of which have appearances shown above.