

The Paediatric Neurology and Development Association of Southern Africa

### Acquired Fetal Brain Lesions-Hemorrhagic/Ischemic

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### Perinatal Stroke

- Perinatal stroke is defined as a focal vascular brain injury that occurs from
  - the fetal period to 28 days of postnatal age
- The overall incidence is 1 in 1,000 live births
- The most focused lifetime risk for stroke occurs near birth
- Modern MRI techniques have high accuracy in diagnosing the different types



Perinatal Stroke: A Practical Approach to Diagnosis and Management

Ratika Srivastava and Adam Kirton NeoReviews March 2021 22 (3) e163-e176: DOI: https://doi-org.wolfson-ez.medico.tau.ac.il/10.1542/neo.22-3-e160 Perinatal stroke: mechanisms, management, and outcomes of early cerebrovascular brain injury

Dunbar, et al. Lancet Child Adolesc Health, 2018

#### Origin:

- arterial
- venous

#### Mechanism:

- ischemic
- hemorrhagic
- both

#### Presenting symptoms:

- acute
- late (presumed stroke)

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Neonatal arterial ischaemic stroke

#### Presumed perinatal stroke



Arterial presumed perinatal ischaemic stroke



Neonatal cerebral sinovenous thrombosis



Neonatal haemorrhagic stroke



Periventricular venous infarction



Presumed perinatal haemorrhagic stroke

# Risk factors for perinatal arterial ischaemic stroke: a large case-control study

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- Pre-eclampsia
- Oligohydramnios
- Intrapartum fever
- Birth asphyxia
- SGA
- Male sex
- Preterm birth (<37wk)
- Chorioamnionitis
- Oligohydramnios

- Nulliparity
- Caesarean section
- Vaginal-operative delivery
- Low umbilical artery pH (<7.1)
- Low 5-minute-apgar score (<7)</li>
- Multiple pregnancies
- Hypoxia
- Intubation/mask ventilation
- Hypoglycaemia

### Presumed Arterial Perinatal Ischemic Stroke

- Same as neonatal arterial stroke, differing only in presentation timing
- Affected newborns lack symptoms
- Diagnosed in infancy or early childhood, with asymmetric motor development, focal epilepsy or other focal neurologic deficits
- Represent up to 50% of all perinatal arterial ischemic strokes
- Chronic arterial infarction may appear as cystic encephalomalacia
- Most lesions affect the MCA territory





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### Periventricular Venous Infarction

- A germinal matrix (GM) hemorrhage leads to compression of medullary veins and secondary venous infarction of the periventricular white matter (analogous to periventricular hemorrhagic infarction in preterm newborns)
- The GM hemorrhage occurs at mid-gestation (unlikely after 32 weeks)
- May disrupt the descending corticospinal tracts leading to hemiparesis
- MRI reveals well-defined white matter lesions and residual hemosiderin depositions

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Ratika Srivastava and Adam Kirton

### Presumed Perinatal Hemorrhagic Stroke

- No symptoms until after the newborn period
- Presumed to occur during the perinatal period caused by an initial hemorrhage
- Rare diagnosis
- MRI reveals parenchymal lesions and residual hemosiderin depositions





Article

Perinatal Stroke: A Practical Approach to Diagnosis and Management

Ratika Srivastava and Adam Kirton NeoReviews March 2021, 22 (3) e163-e176; DOI: https://doi-org.wolfson-ez.medicp.tau.ac.il/10.1542/neo.22-3-e163



Pediatric Neuroimaging



ERIN SIMON SCHWARTZ AND A. JAMES BARKOVICH

"...all of the types of injury described in prematurely born infants can develop in fetuses of the same postconceptional age."

TABLE <b>4-4</b> Brain Injur	y in Premature Neonates	
Type of Injury	Location	Pathology
Germinal matrix hemorrhage Peri- and intraventricular hemorrhage	Walls of lateral ventricles (may extend into ventricle and cause hydrocephalus) Cerebellar cortex	Hemorrhage secondary to rupture of thin walled capillaries in germinal matrix
White matter injury Periventricular leukomalacia – PVL	Deep cerebral white matter (may be multifocal or diffuse)	Focal/multifocal necrosis, which forms astroglial scar. May cavitate.
Venous infarction	Cerebral basal ganglia, deep and periventricular white matter	Infarction often hemorrhages. May liquefy, leading to porencephaly
Cerebellar atrophy Cerebellar infarction/hemorrhage	Cerebellar vermis and hemispheres	Unknown unilateral cerebellar hypoplasia

#### Brain and Spine Injuries in Infancy and Childhood

ERIN SIMON SCHWARTZ AND A. JAMES BARKOVICH

Brain insults differ radiologically and pathologically depending upon:

- Cause
- Maturity of the brain
- Severity of the insult
- The mature brain reacts to injury by significant astrocytic proliferation, resulting in a soft brain lesion
   (encephalomalacia) consisting of astroglial cells and an irregular surrounding wall composed primarily of reactive
   astrocytes.

The neonatal and infant brains fall somewhere in between

- The fetal brain has limited capacity for astrocytic reaction → necrotic tissue is completely reabsorbed (liquefaction necrosis) resulting is a smooth-walled, fluid-filled cavity (porencephalic cyst).
- Specific end-stage patterns of tissue reaction to severe / global injury:
- Hydranencephaly
- Porencephaly
- Multicystic encephalomalacia







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# Germinal matrix and intraventricular hemorrhages (GMH-IVH)

Severity of germinal matrix and intraventricular hemorrhage on cranial ultrasonography

Grade	Description on parasagittal view	
I	Germinal matrix hemorrhage (GMH) only or germinal matrix hemorrhage plus intraventricular hemorrhage less than 10% of ventricular area	
II	GMH and intraventricular hemorrhage; 10 to 50% of ventricular area	
III	GMH and intraventricular hemorrhage involving more than 50% of ventricular area; lateral ventricles are usually distended	
IV	Hemorrhagic infarction in periventricular white matter ipsilateral to intraventricular hemorrhage (also called periventricular hemorrhagic infarction)	

#### GMH pathogenesis:

- Intrinsic fragility of the GM vasculature
- Disturbance in the cerebral blood flow

Linda de Vries, 2019, UpToDate

### IVH Grading

### Papile's Grading (1978)



Egesa WI et al. International Journal of Pediatrics Volume 2021

Bilateral small GMH (Grade I)

Grade III GMH-IVH lateral ventricles dilated



Bilateral GMH-IVH with intraventricular bleeding, w/o ventricular dilatation (Grade II)



Grade IV GMH-IVH bilateral GM hemorrhage intraventricular rupture extension into PV white matter

https://neuropathology-web.org





#### Pressure from intraventricular bleeding

Impaired drainage of medullary and terminal veins

Periventricular venous congestion

Periventricular white matter ischemia

Periventricular venous hemorrhagic infarction

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# FETAL INTRACRANIAL HEMORRHAGE

# THE ROLE OF FETAL IMAGING

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### The Role Of Imaging

Diagnosis of the lesion:

- Focal ischemic damage- cavitations, hyperechoic lesions
- MRI useful for diagnosis of ischemic hemorrhagic lesions
- The use of gradient-echo sequences makes it possible to identify old hemorrhagic lesions, which may be missed by US

### The role of imaging

Localization of the lesion and evaluation of its extension:

- Cerebral hemispheres/ cerebellum
- Supratentorial damage-precise localization of the lesion and its extension
- Posterior fossa-determine if the cerebellar hemispheres and/or the vermis are damaged

Obstet Gynecol 2020

# Intracranial Hemorrhage

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM); Ana Monteagudo, MD

- Fetal ICH is rare ~1 in 10,000 pregnancies
- ICH most often is diagnosed late in pregnancy as an incidental finding

in utero

- Mean gestational age at diagnosis 31 weeks
- ICH categories:
  - Intracerebral (Intraventricular, infratentorial)
  - Extracerebral (subdural hematomas)



# Causes of Parenchymal Ischemic-Hemorrhagic Insults

- Monochorionic pregnancies
- Maternal trauma
- Maternal history of drug exposure
- Infection (TORCH)
- Platelet alloimmunization
- Thrombophilic disorders
- Underlying inflammatory or metabolic disease
- Genetic- mutations in COL<sub>4</sub>A<sub>1/2</sub>

smfm.org

### Intracranial Hemorrhage



Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM); Ana Monteagudo, MD

#### Maternal risk factors:

- Trauma
- Seizures
- Hypoxia
- Immune thrombocytopenia (ITP)
- Coagulation disorders
- Infections (CMV, toxoplasmosis)
- Febrile disease
- Medications (warfarin)
- Drugs (cocaine)
- Preeclampsia
- Placental abruption
- Maternal vitamin K deficiency

#### Fetal risk factors:

- TTTS
- Death of a monochorionic co-twin
- Fetal thrombophilia (factor V Leiden, protein C)
- Thrombosis of the umbilical cord
- Cord entanglement
- Fetal alloimmune thrombocytopenia (FNAIT)

# In most cases, the etiology remains unclear

## Causes of Parenchymal Ischemic/Hemorrhagic Insults

- Monochorionic pregnancies
- Maternal trauma
- Maternal history of drug exposure
- Infection (TORCH)

- Platelet alloimmunization
- Thrombophilic disorders
- Metabolic disease
- Interferonopathy
- Collagenopathy

# FETAL INTRAVENTRICULAR HEMORRHAGE

### IVH Grading-MRI







IVH Grade 1

IVH Grade 3





#### IVH Grade 4

Goeral K, et al. A novel magnetic resonance imaging-based scoring system to predict outcome in neonates born preterm with intraventricular haemorrhage. Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology 2021.



#### 23 weeks GMH-IVH Grade I



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- Voluson E10

BNAI ZION OB/GYN ULTRASOUND 09:48:29 01.12.2020





BNAI ZION OB/GYN ULTRASOUND 01.12.2020 09:49:47

RIC6-12-D TIs 0.2 TIb 0.2 MI 0.9 OB 8.6cm / 2.0 13Hz/ 8.6cm 125°/2.0 anatomy/OB HI M PI 15.80 - 4.00 Gn 11 C3/M7 P4/E3

#### 32 weeks GMH-IVH Grade I – follow-up

- >

Germinal Matrix Grade 1 Hemorrhage-MRI



#### 23 weeks GMH-IVH Grade II

HINDI, NIDA 23

BNAI ZION OB/GYN ULTRASOUND



#### 30 weeks follow-up







- Anterior horn dilatation
- Ventricular wall irregularity
- Periventricular hyperechogenicity





235 GA=26w4d





Har-high Pwr 95 % Gn -4 C5 / M7 P3 / E3 SRI II 3

(23)

 BPD
 8.94cm

 GA
 36w1d 47.6%

 OFD (HC)
 11.78cm

 HC
 32.90cm

 GA
 37w3d 39.0%



(23)

Har-high Pwr 100 % Gn -4 C5 / M7 P3 / E3 SRI II 3 Pwr 92 % Gn -7 C5 / M7 P3 / E3 SRI II 3

Pwr 100 D Gn -8.4 Frq Iow Qual norm WMF Iow1 PRF 0.3kHz

4cm/s

COMP

-

### 36 weeks IVH Grade III

1. Trim.
Har-high
Pwr 95 %
Gn -6
C5 / M7
P3 / E3
SRI II 3



Pwr 100 🖬 Gn 0 C4 / M5 P2 / E2 SRI II 2



#### 36 weeks Case: GMH-IVH Grade III

AO 100% Gn -2 C6/M8 P4/E3 SRI II 2\*

R 17.50 - 6.20 AO 100% Gn 3 C3/M4 FF4/E3 SRI II 2\*/CRI 1

# 28.5 Weeks PVHIVH Grade IV -1°/1.8 BRAIN-LZ/OB R 17.50 - 6.20 AO 100% Gn 3

C3/MA FF4/E3 SRI 11 2°/CRI

-1\*/1.6 BRAIN-LZ/OB R 17.50 - 6.20 AO 100% Gn 3 C3/M4 FF4/E3 SRI II 2\*/CRI 1

#### 28.5 weeks VHI IVH Grade IV

ANATON HI H \* 7

Blood spillage through the Magendi foramen

### IVH - Grade III/IV





38 weeks Reduced Fetal Movements





### 24 weeks IVH grade IV


### IVH grade IV (34 weeks)-MRI





Valuson

#### 32.5 weeks, ~6 weeks after PVHI IVH Grade IV ventricular dilatation



10.8cm -1°/2.0 BRAIN-LZ/OB HI H \* 16.00 - 6.00 AO 100% Gn 3 C3/M4 FF4/E3 SRI II 2\*/CRI 1

Right

E8

## Porencephalic Cyst-MRI



## Brain hemorrhages - Prenatal MRI 🖉





## EPI/T2\*: 30% more hemorrhages than T2-w!



#### unpublished



#### Timing of Occurrence

- Hyperacute (0-6 hours) hypoechoic particulate csf w/ motion
- Acute (6 hours 3 days) hyperechoic solid
- Early subacute (3-10 days) clot retraction - hypoechogenic central change - fibrin strands
- Late subacute (10-21 days) hyperechogenic ependyma clot w/ gray center & white border
- Chronic (21 days 6 weeks) cystic changes retracted clots





## FETAL CEREBELLAR HEMORRHAGE

#### Cerebellar Hemorrhage (CBH)



- CBH is frequently associated with a supratentorial hemorrhage (28–71%)
- CBH is confined to one cerebellar hemisphere in 71%, to the vermis in 20%, and affects both the cerebellar hemisphere and vermis in 9%
- CBHs can be divided into three groups: punctate, limited, and large
- Large CBH is associated with high mortality and morbidity (adverse long-term neurodevelopmental and behavioral outcomes)

ANATOMY LZ/OB HI H \* 7.20 - 2.30 ANATOMY LZ/OB HI H \* 7.20 - 2.30 AO 97% Gn 8 C8/M8 P4/E3 SRI II 2\*

#### 30 weeks, echogenic WM in fetus

• Periventricular ischemic necrosis

- Vascular congestion
- No GMH-IVH

0

•



## Post-hemorrhagic unilateral cerebellar "hypoplasia" (31w)



## Prenatal unilateral cerebellar hypoplasia in a series of 26 cases: significance and implications for prenatal diagnosis

M. MASSOUD\*, M. CAGNEAUX\*†, C. GAREL‡§, N. VARENE§, M.-L. MOUTARD‡, T. BILLETTE‡, A. BENEZIT¶, C. ROUGEOT¶, J.-M. JOUANNIC\*\*, J. MASSARDIER\*, P. GAUCHERAND\*, V. DESPORTES‡¶ and L. GUIBAUD\*†‡

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- Predisposing factors for vascular insult were identified in 8/24:
  - Maternal alcohol addiction
  - Diabetes mellitus
  - Congenital CMV
  - Pathological placenta with thrombotic vasculopathy and infarctions
- UCH is a focal cerebellar lesion of clastic origin
- UCH may be a clue for prenatal diagnosis of PHACES syndrome
- The amount of cerebellar surface loss does not correlate with poor prognosis
- UCH with a normal vermis is often associated with a normal outcome

- The surface loss of cerebellar hemisphere >50% in 19/24
- The vermis was normal in 19/24



#### 26 weeks, HELLP syndrome





## Outcome of antenatally diagnosed intracranial hemorrhage: case series and review of the literature

#### T. GHI\*, G. SIMONAZZI\*, A. PEROLO\*, L. SAVELLI\*, F. SANDRI†, B. BERNARDI‡, D. SANTINI§, L. BOVICELLI\* and G. PILU\*

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- 109 fetal ICHs
- 89 intracerebral (79 IVH and 10 infratentorial)
- 20 subdural hematoma

#### At 12 months follow-up (48 cases)

52% were judged neurologically normal:

- 47% among the IVHs
- 66% among the hematomas
- 66% among the infratentorial ICHs

	Total	Normal	Mild handicap	Severe handicap	Dead
Cases	48	25	6	13	4
Intracerebral	39	19	5	12	3
IVH I	4	4	0	0	0
IVH II	7	4	0	3	0
IVH III	18	8	5	5	0
IVH IV	7	1	0	3	3
Infratentorial	3	2	0	1	0
Subdural hematoma	9	6	1	1	1
Both	0	0	0	0	0

## Intracranial Hemorrhage

in utero

Obstet Gynecol 2020

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM); Ana Monteagudo, MD

GMH-IHV	Survival (%)	Neurologic sequelae (%)	
Grade II	100	10	
Grade III	95	63 (severe: 31.6)	
Grade IV	83	85 (severe: 6o)	

Resolution of ICH is associated with good outcome

It is not known whether the outcomes of fetal GMH-IVH are like neonatal....

#### **REVIEW ARTICLE**



#### Preterm neuroimaging and neurodevelopmental outcome: a focus on intraventricular hemorrhage, post-hemorrhagic hydrocephalus, and associated brain injury

Rebecca A. Dorner<sup>1,2</sup> · Vera Joanna Burton<sup>2,3,4</sup> · Marilee C. Allen<sup>1,2</sup> · Shenandoah Robinson<sup>2,5</sup> · Bruno P. Soares <sup>2,6</sup>

- PHVD an important complication of IVH in preterm infants
- PHVD occurs in 30% to 50% of infants with GMH-IVH grades III or PVHI
- Progressive post-hemorrhagic hydrocephalus is a risk factor for adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes

#### Prognosis

The prognosis depends both on the etiology and the lesion

- The postnatal scoring systems for prediction of outcome of IVH, depend mainly on the degree of VM, uni or bilateral and parenchymal involvement
- There are not enough studies on outcome of fetal IVH
- The postnatal classification is not sufficient
- The most important factor is probably the extent and localization of the WM injury

Tractography is emerging as an important tool for prognostication

Prognosis-Ischemic-hemorrhagic parenchymal insults

#### Lesion localization impacts on the prognosis:

- A unilateral anterior frontal lesion, can carry a good prognosis
- A unilateral cerebellar hemispheric insult may also have a good outcome if the vermis is not involved
- Lesions involving the cortex are at risk for epilepsy
- ✤ If the central sulcus is involved, a contralateral congenital hemiparesis is the rule
- Lesions of the occipital lobe may generate visual disorders

Bilateral, multifocal or extensive lesions worsen the prognosis and may be responsible for intrauterine fetal death

## FETAL PERIVENTRICULAR ECHOGENICITY



• Vulnerability of oligodendrocyte precursors



#### White matter injury of prematurity (PVL)

**Grade 1:** Transient areas of increased PVE\* persisting for≥7days

**Grade 2:** Transient PVE that evolves into small, localized cysts in the fronto-parietal periventricular white matter

**Grade 3:** PVE evolving into extensive periventricular cystic lesions in the fronto-parieto-occipital white matter

**Grade 4:** PVE evolving into extensive cystic lesions in the deep white matter or in the subcortical white matter

(L. De Vries et al., Behav Brain Res, 1992)

\*, PVE, abnormal periventricular echogenicity. The reference is the echogenicity of the choroid plexus.



## Pathogenesis of cerebral white matter injury of prematurity

O Khwaja, J J Volpe

#### Mechanisms of WMI:

- focal necrosis deep in the white matter:
  - cystic WMI: the focal necrotic lesions are macroscopic and evolve to cysts
  - non-cystic WMI: the focal lesions are microscopic and evolve to glial scars
- diffuse white matter gliosis (DWMG) w/o necrosis:
  - characterized by a loss of pre-oligodendrocytes and astrogliosis
  - the mildest form of WMI



# Pathogenesis of cerebral white matter injury of prematurity

0 Khwaja, J J Volpe Maternal infection/ Prematurity Fetal inflammation Hypoxia/ischaemia Infection lschaemia/ Cytokines Microglia reperfusion Fe++ 🗲 IVH Microglial activation Antioxidant Glutamate Microglia defences Reactive oxygen species Reactive nitrogen species Cytokines ROS/RNS Glutamate Oligodendroglial death Oligodendrocyte death



METHODS

#### Differentiation of PVHI and Acute White Matter Injury (PVL)

- Non-cystic PVL (non-hemorrhagic WMI) is typically bilateral with ill-defined contour
- PVHI is usually "fan-shaped", unilateral and associated with an ipsilateral IVH •

- The key distinction feature is evidence of GMH-IVH:
  - PVHI: blood at the side of the WM lesion, the lesion is asymmetric or unilateral
  - PVL: bilateral WM echogenicities w/o blood in the germinal matrix or ventricles

## ISCHEMIC FETAL STROKE



#### Ischemic Perinatal Stroke

- Fetal ischemic stroke: diagnosed before birth by fetal imaging or in stillbirths on the basis of neuropathological examination (arterial)
- Neonatal ischemic stroke: diagnosed after birth and/or before the 28th postnatal day (including in preterm infants)
- Presumed perinatal ischemic stroke: diagnosed in infants over 28 days of age in whom it is presumed (but not certain) that the ischemic event occurred sometime between the 20th week of fetal life through the 28th postnatal day

#### Cortical arterial stroke



36w0d MRI Courtesy Prof. Ben Sira 36w3d

36w5d

### Arterial Ischemic Fetal Stroke Sequelae

Porencephaly, cortical-arterial type

Hydranencephaly

Schizencephaly

Govaert P, Prenatal Stroke. 2009

#### Hydranencephaly



Sepulveda 2012

#### Schizencephaly











34W

#### Schizencephaly

















Unilateral Occipital

Bilateral Parietal

Bilateral Frontal

#### FETAL IVH – PVHI NEW CLASSIFICATION AND PARAMETERS-US AND MRI

GMH–IVH	Germinal matrix hemorrhage (Caudothalamic/subependymal), Choroid plexus or intraventricular hemorrhage
PVHI	Yes/no
Location of PVHI	Anterior Frontal (anterior to the foramen of Monro) Posterior Frontal (posterior to the foramen of Monro) With/without involvement of the pre/postcentral gyrus (sensory- motor region) Parietal With/without involvement of the pre/postcentral gyrus (sensory-motor region) Temporal Occipital With/without involvement of the primary visual area)

Basal Ganglia involvement Posterior fossa involvement	Yes/no, Unilateral/bilateral Yes/no
Laterality Ventriculomegaly	Uni/bilateral Yes/no, Unilateral/bilateral, Measurements (mm): Rt:; Lt:
Sub-arachnoid involvement Midline shift	Yes/no (specify) Yes/no
Other findings Evolution of the findings Underlying disorders	Specify table/ progressive/ regressing

#### Classification

### **ACUTE/SUBACUTE IVH**

Туре 1	GMH, Normal lateral ventricle width
Type 2	GMH- IVH <sup>10</sup> , Normal lateral ventricle width
Туре 3	GMH- IVH <sup>10</sup> , with mild ventriculomegaly (<15 mm)
Туре 4	GMH- IVH <sup>10</sup> , with severe ventriculomegaly ( $\geq$ 15 mm)
Type 5	IVH with subarachnoid involvement
Туре 6	IVH with posterior fossa involvement
## Classification PARENCHYMAL HEMORRHAGE

Туре 1	Focal parenchymal involvement, one territory, unilateral
1 a	Anterior Frontal
ıb	Posterior Frontal With/without involvement of the sensory-motor region
1 C	Parietal With/without involvement of the sensory-motor region
ıd	Temporal
1 e	Occipital With/without involvement of the primary visual area
ıf	Basal Ganglia (other than the caudate nucleus) With/without internal capsula involvement
1 g	Cerebellum

Type 2	Extensive parenchymal
	involvement
2 a	Unilateral parenchymal involvement of more than 1 territory (specify territories, specify if there is a midline shift)
2 b	Bilateral parenchymal involvement (specify territories, specify if there is a midline shift)

## Classification LATE IVH SEQUELAE / PRESUMED PVHI

Туре 1	Ependymal/Subependymal/caudothalamic hemosiderin/ blood products with normal ventricular size
Type 2	Intraparenchymal hemosiderin/ blood products, without parenchymal loss
Туре 3	Severe ventriculomegaly (>15 mm) /susp. Hydrocephalus, in the presence of blood products
Туре 4	Ventricular border irregularity/ change in ventricular morphology (note location and laterality)
Туре 5	Periventricular porencephalic cysts (note location, extension, laterality)