

## **Abstract**

Polycythemia vera (PV) is a myeloproliferative disorder causing hyperviscosity symptoms, thrombosis and bleeding. Polycythemia vera presenting as ischaemic stroke is uncommon. This report describes a case of polycythemia vera presenting as multiple bilateral subacute ischaemic strokes.

## **Case presentation**

A 63 year old female presented with right sided weakness for four days and left sided weakness for two days duration. On the day of admission she also developed slurring of speech and difficulty in swallowing. In the background she had headache and blurring of vision for 3-4 months. Examination revealed spastic tetraparesis with left more than right and lower limbs more than upper limbs. Spastic palatal movements were also noted.

MRI brain showed bilateral anterior cerebral artery territory and pontine infarcts. Further, she was found to have polycythemia with hypercellular marrow and JAK 2 positivity confirming polycythemia vera.

## **Conclusion**

Polycythemia vera is a less common cause for ischaemic stroke. This case is unique as this patient had developed multiple bilateral subacute infarcts as the first manifestation of polycythemia vera. All patients with stroke should be evaluated for possible underlying polycythemia vera, as treating it appropriately significantly reduces the recurrence thrombosis.

## **Key words**

Polycythemia vera, hyperviscosity, Ischaemic stroke