**Am I having a stroke ??**

*MOHAMAD KAMAL AZAM BIN NOR AZLAN ,IDA ZALIZA BINTI ZAINOL ABIDIN*

*EMERGENCY AND TRAUMA DEPARTMENT ,HOSPITAL TUANKU FAUZIAH,KANGAR PERLIS*

**Introduction :**

Brain stem glioma is very rare. The incidence of this disease is not known. In this case study we are going to discuss a 10 years old girl who was diagnosed with pontine glioma which is very aggressive and can cause death. Brain stem gliomas are present in 20% from all neoplasm.

**Case Description :**

A 10 year old Chinese girl with no medical illness presented with left sided body weakness , facial asymmetry , slurred speech,drooling saliva and inability to walk. All these symptoms occurred 2 days earlier and had became worse.She didn’t have any fever,fitting episode,headache or any recent trauma.Upon arrival at Emergency Department,she was alert and fully conscious. All the vital signs were normal.Dextrostix was 6.0 mmol/L. CNS examination revealed weak muscle powered 2/5 with hypertonia over left side of both upper and lower limbs. The right side upper and lower limbs were normal.Laboratory markers were normal too. CT scan showed presence of a hypodense lesion at pons which was consistent with pontine glioma.

**Discussion :**

This patient presented with acute onset of left hemiparesis. The short presentation also was not accompanied with history of infection or trauma. The [symptoms](https://www.cancer.gov/Common/PopUps/popDefinition.aspx?id=45022&version=patient&language=English&dictionary=Cancer.gov) depend on where the tumor forms in the brain, the size of the tumor and whether it has spread throughout the brain stem, how fast the tumor grows and the child's age and [stage of development](https://www.cancer.gov/Common/PopUps/popDefinition.aspx?id=450103&version=patient&language=English&dictionary=Cancer.gov). Symptoms appear rapidly. Most of the symptoms usually mimics symptoms of stroke such as limb weakness,facial asymmetry,drooling saliva & slurred speech. Pontine gliomas are difficult to treat and the survival rates are very poor. The treatment modalities too are still being researched. MRI helps in grading and deciding treatment modes.

**Conclusion :**

Pontine glioma is a lethal brain cancer. It accounts 10% of all brain and spinal childhood tumours. Brainstem tumours in children have poor prognosis and are still intensely investigated.The symptoms occur rapidly and could mimics strokeThe lack of familiarity as well as its rarity, results in delayed, and misdiagnosis.

**Keywords :** Stroke,Glioma,Weakness