

# SCaLPEL Erasmus+ Neurosurgical cases

Department of Neurosurgery  
Clinical Hospital Centre Zagreb  
Medical School, University of Zagreb

Sergej Marasanov



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**



April 11th, 2023

# Neurovascular compression syndromes

# Intro & Types

- usually compression or distortion of a cranial nerve due to a redundant or aberrant vascular structure
- Not all cases of neurovascular contact are clinically symptomatic
- types:
  - **somatic sensory** : trigeminal neuralgia , glossopharyngeal neuralgia
  - **somatic motor** : hemifacial spasm
  - **special sensory** : tinnitus and vertigo
  - essential hypertension

Most common types ?

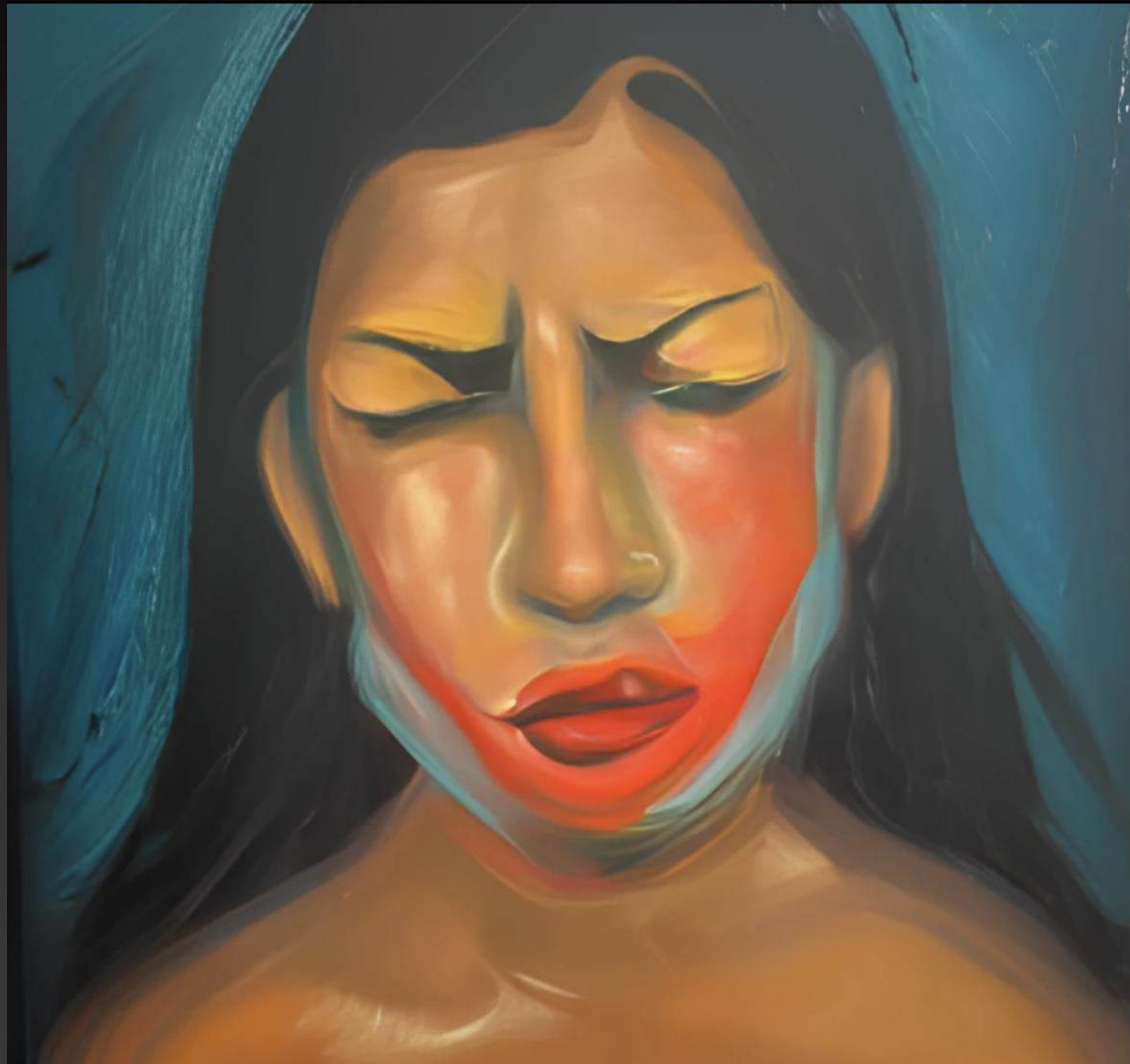
# Intro & Types

- usually compression or distortion of a cranial nerve due to a redundant or aberrant vascular structure
- Not all cases of neurovascular contact are clinically symptomatic
- types:
  - **somatic sensory** : trigeminal neuralgia , glossopharyngeal neuralgia
  - **somatic motor** : hemifacial spasm
  - **special sensory** : tinnitus and vertigo
  - essential hypertension

# Intro & Types

- usually compression or distortion of a cranial nerve due to a redundant or aberrant vascular structure
- Not all cases of neurovascular contact are clinically symptomatic
- types:
  - somatic sensory : trigeminal neuralgia , glossopharyngeal neuralgia
  - somatic motor : hemifacial spasm
  - special sensory : tinnitus and vertigo
  - essential hypertension

# Trigeminal neuralgia





# Trigeminal neuralgia

- A disorder characterized by
  - recurrent unilateral brief electric shock-like pains,
  - abrupt in onset and termination,
  - limited to the distribution of one or more divisions of the trigeminal nerve
  - triggered by innocuous stimuli.



- Classified as:
  - Classical (Idiopathic)
  - Secondary

# Trigeminal neuralgia

- Classical
  - purely paroxysmal
  - with concomitant continuous pain - previously Atypical (TN 2)
- Idiopathic
  - no electrophysiological or MRI abnormalities



IHS Classification ICHD-3

# Trigeminal neuralgia

- Classical
  - purely paroxysmal -previously Typical (TN 1)
  - with concomitant continuous pain - previously Atypical (TN 2)
- Idiopathic
  - no electrophysiological or MRI abnormalities

# Trigeminal neuralgia



- Classical
  - purely paroxysmal -previously Typical (TN 1)
  - with concomitant continuous pain - previously Atypical (TN 2)
- Idiopathic
  - no electrophysiological or MRI abnormalities
- **Neuropathy** - caused by another disorder and indicative of **neural damage**
  - **pain usually continuous, burning or squeezing**

# Clinical Features

- rare, 4-5 / 100 000 in general population per year
- incidence increases with age
- sex predilection M F

# Clinical Features

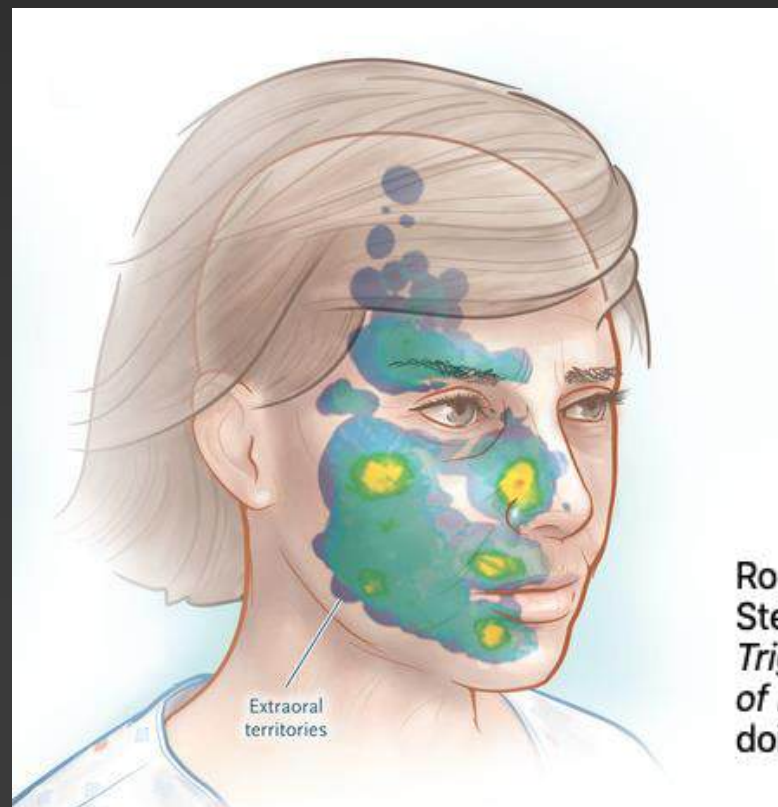
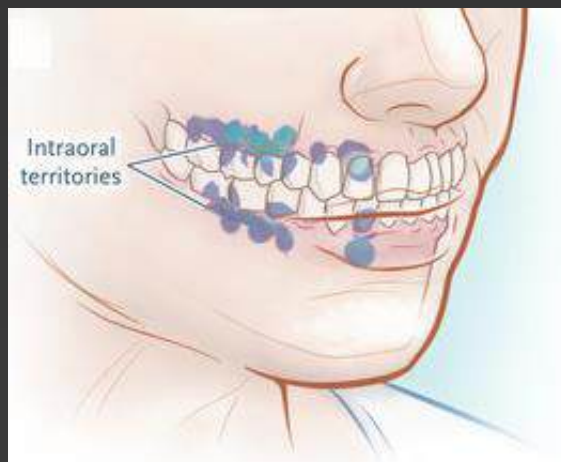
- rare, 4-5 / 100 000 in general population per year
- incidence increases with age
- sex predilection  $M < F$
- maxillary division most common , then

# Clinical Features

- rare, 4-5 / 100 000 in general population per year
- incidence increases with age
- sex predilection  $M < F$
- maxillary division most common , then mandibular

# Clinical Features

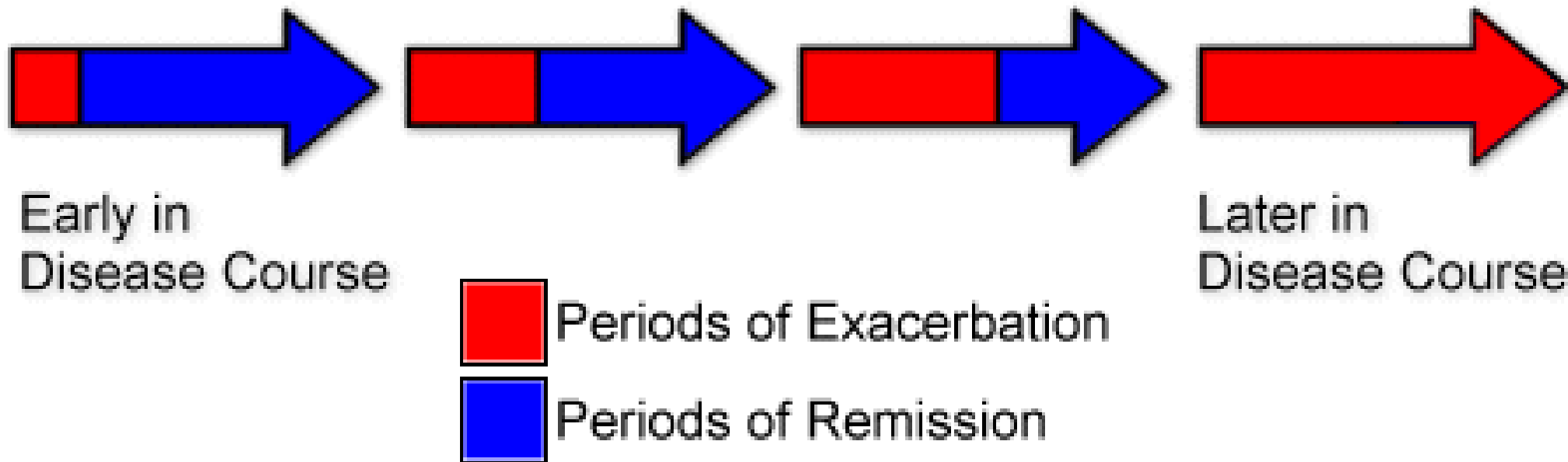
- rare, 4-5 / 100 000 in general population per year
- incidence increases with age
- sex predilection  $M < F$
- maxillary division most common , then mandibular
- trigger points



Ropper, Allan H.; Cruccu, Giorgio; Di Stefano, Giulia; Truini, Andrea (2020). *Trigeminal Neuralgia. New England Journal of Medicine*, 383(8), 754–762. doi:10.1056/NEJMra1914484



## Progression of Trigeminal Neuralgia Over Time



# Differential diagnosis of classical trigeminal neuralgia

- Secondary trigeminal neuralgia
- Dental pain
- Neuropathic pain
- Neurovascular
- Psychogenic

# Treatment

Modulation vs Ablation

# Treatment

Modulation vs Ablation

i.e.

Non-destructive vs Destructive

# Treatment

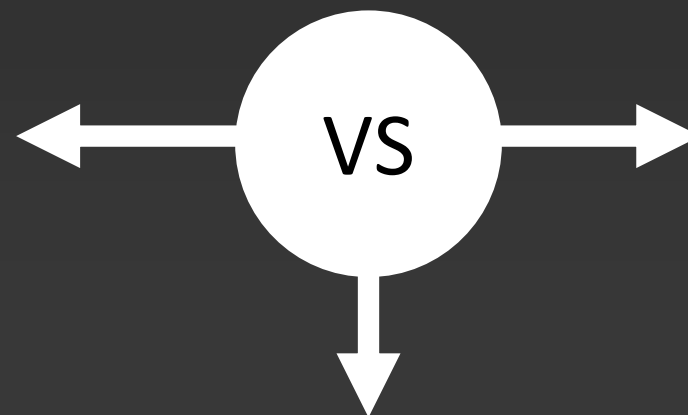
Modulation vs Ablation

i.e.

Non-destructive vs Destructive

i.e.

Medical  
Surgical (MVD)



Surgical  
percutaneous  
(balloon, RF, chemical)

Radiosurgery

# Treatment

- Medical (carbamazepine)
- Initial benefit in 75 - 90% on pts
- other medications
  - oxcarbazepine, gabapentine, lamotrigine, topamirate, baclofen, phenytoin, clonazepam, pregabalin...
- limitation in side effects
- offer MVD in all its who have neuromuscular conflict on MRI ?

# Surgical treatment

- Percutaneous procedures
- chemical (glycerol rhizolysis)
- mechanical (balloon compression)
- thermal (RF rhizotomy)



# Surgical treatment

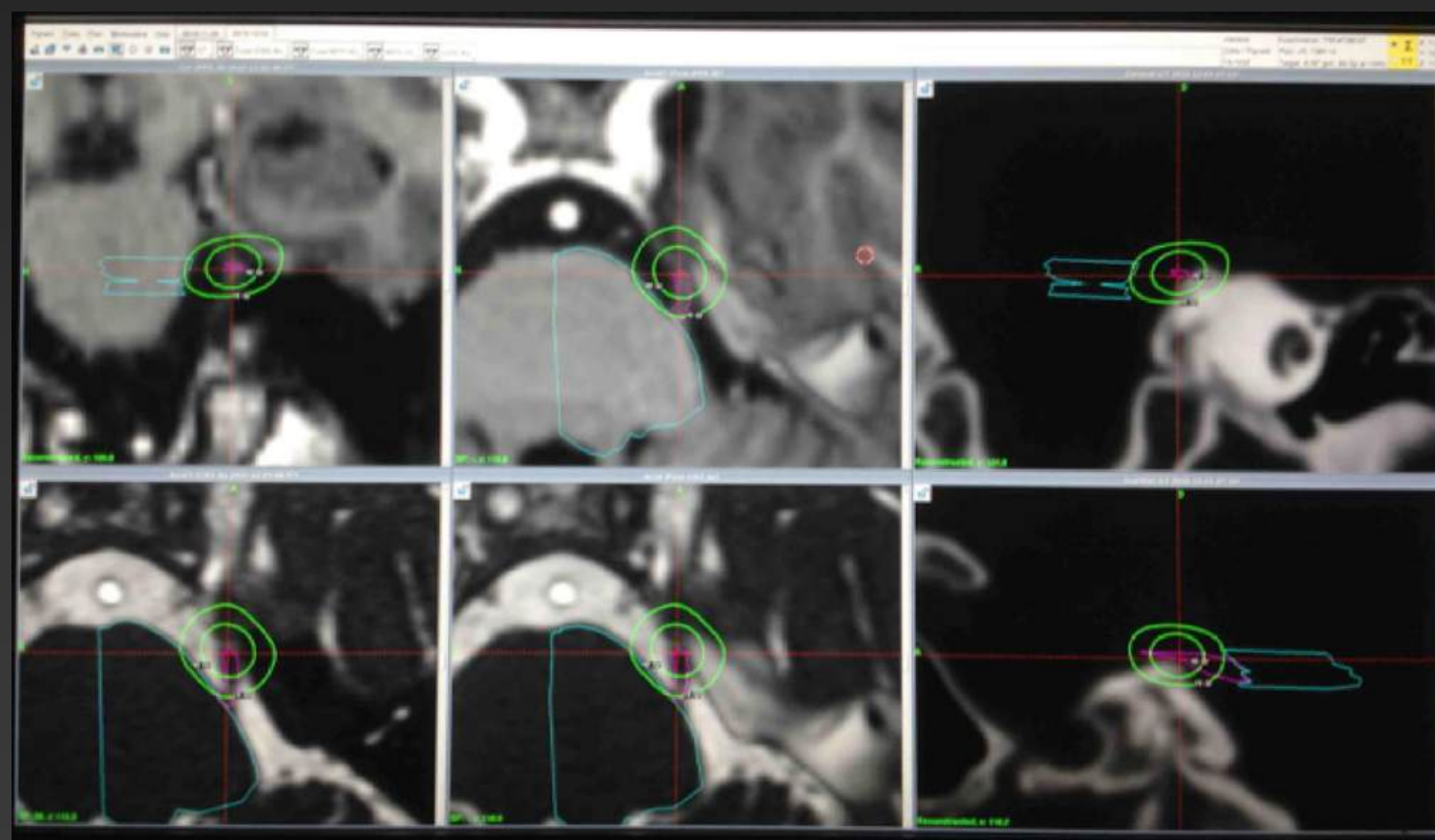
- Percutaneous procedures
- chemical (glycerol rhizolysis)
- mechanical (balloon compression)
- thermal (RF rhizotomy)
  - **selective injury to small unmyelinated nociceptive fibres**, sparing heavily myelinated fibres serving touch, proprioception and motor function





# Radiosurgery

- single dose of high radiation to cisternal portion of nerve
- control of pain BNI I - III achieved in 52% - 85%
- minimally invasive, low risk for paresthesias (25%)
- anaesthesia dolorosa < 1%



effect after 3-4 weeks

< 20% after 10 yrs

can be repeated

# Hemifacial spasm



# Hemifacial spasm

- neuromuscular disorder
- involves frequent involuntary contractions or spasms of the muscles on one side of the face
- more common in middle-aged or older women
- frequently due to neurovascular conflict

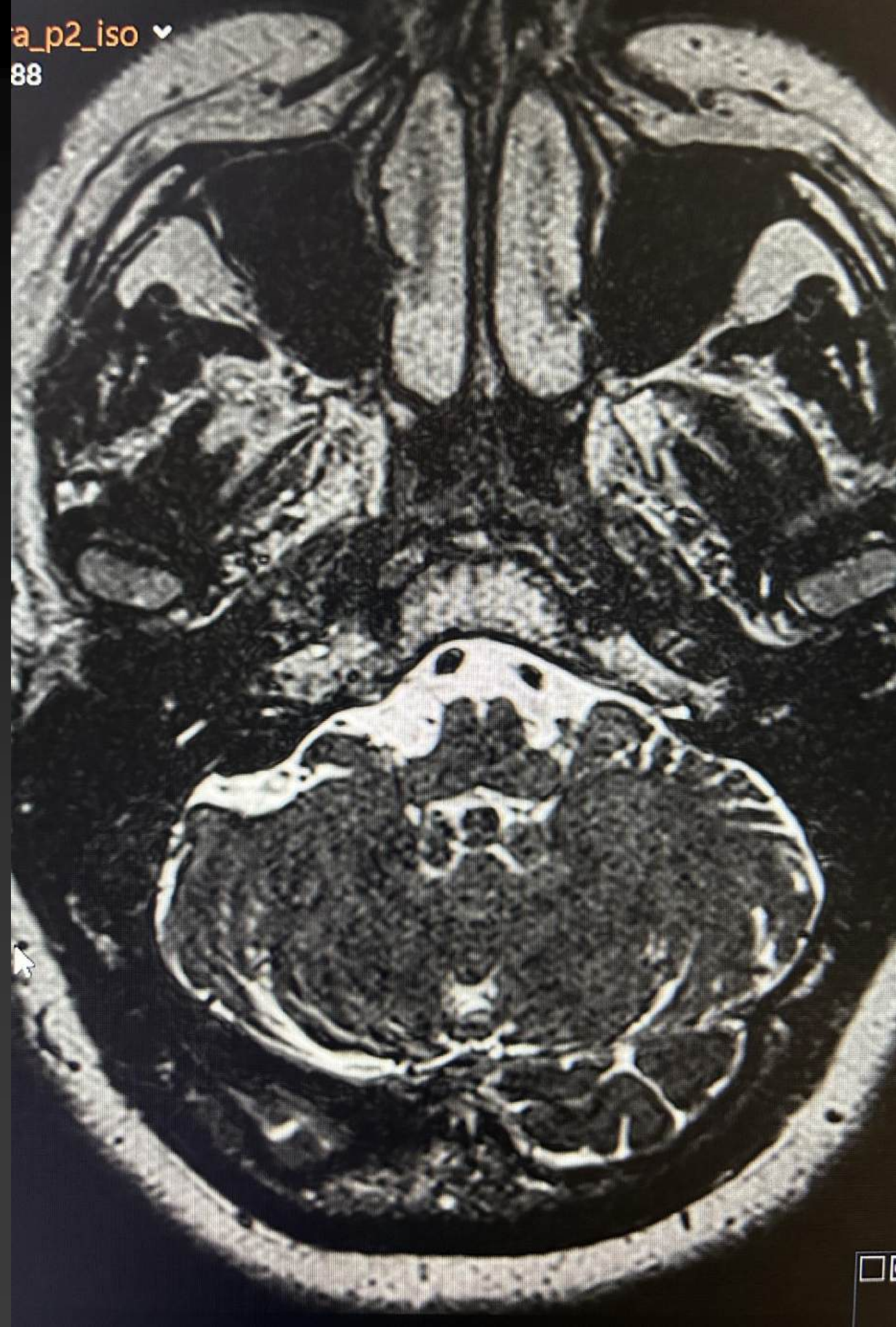
# Case 1

# Case 1

- 46 y.o. female
- Medical history - healthy
- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek
- seen many times by neurologist, prescribed clonazepam (Rivotril)
- brain MRI with CISS



- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek





- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek



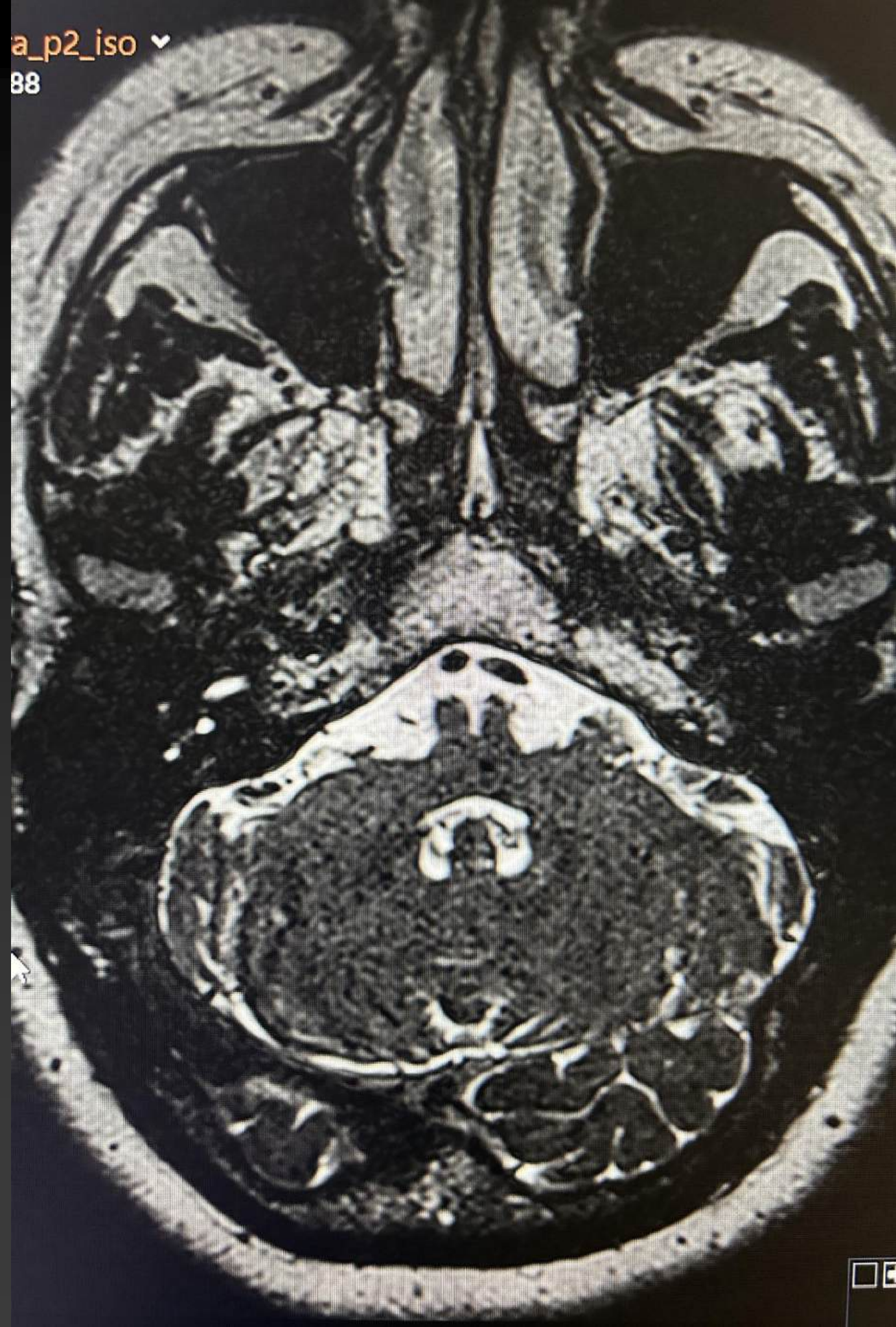


- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek



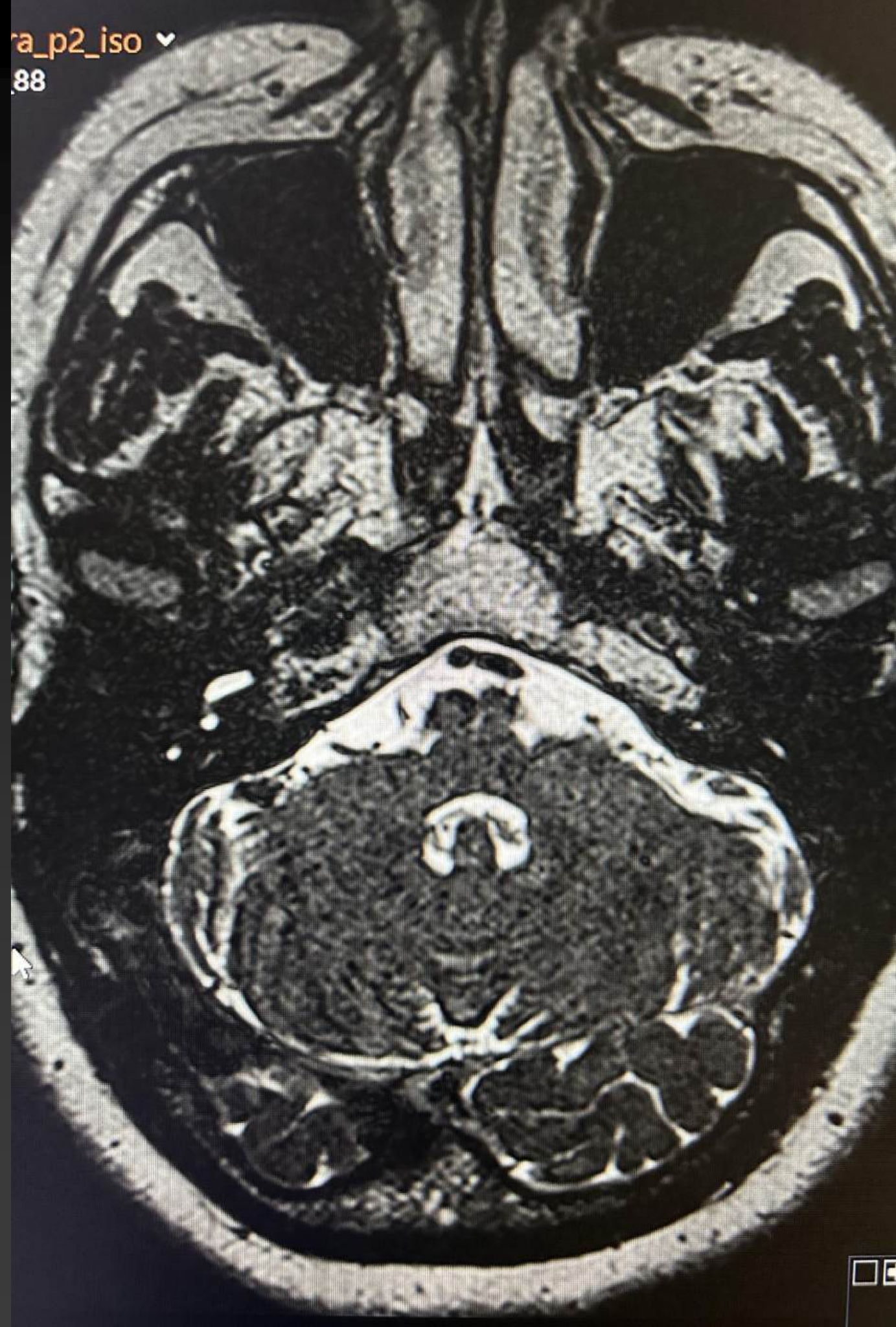


- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek





- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek





- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek





- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek





- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek





- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek



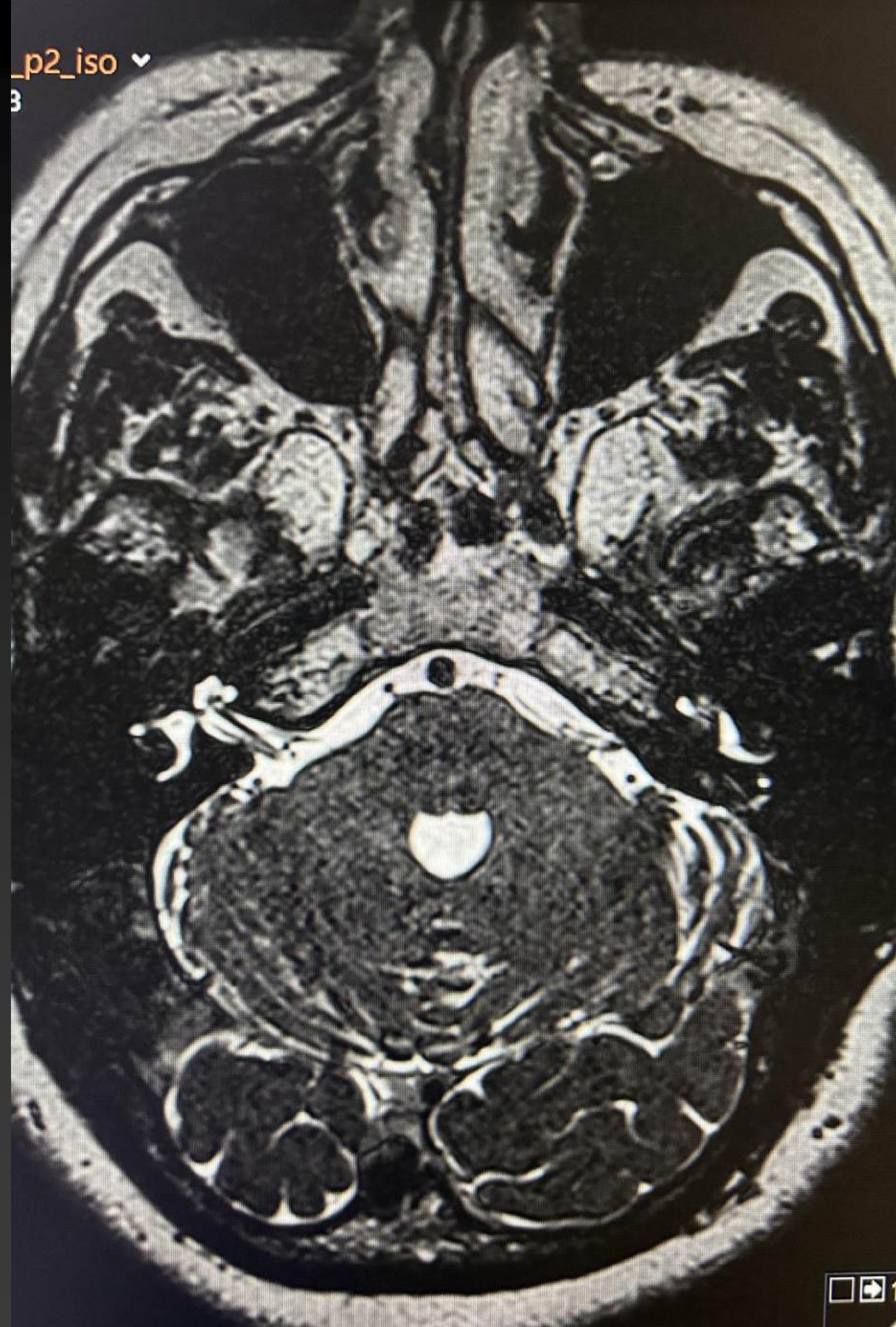


- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek



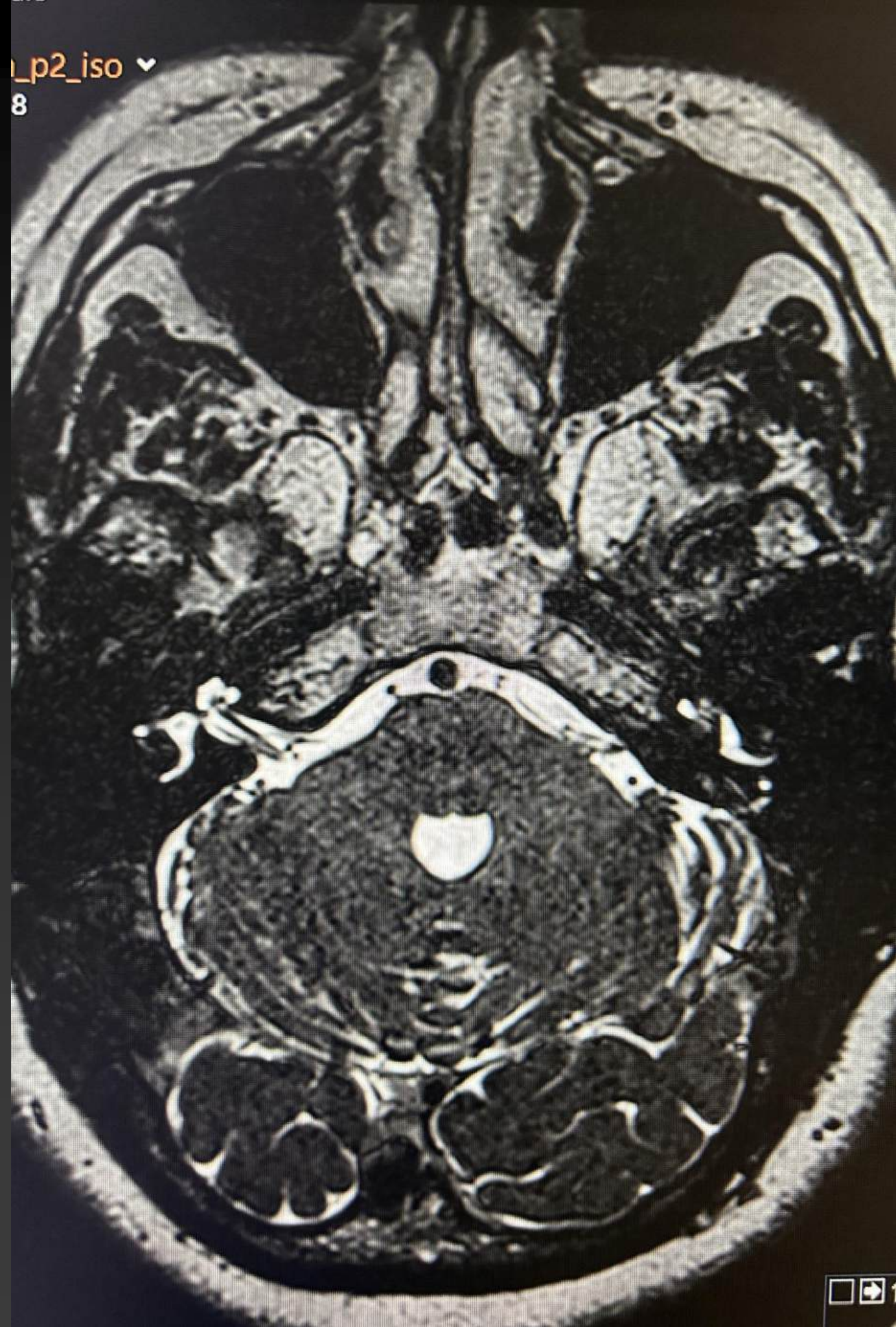


- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek



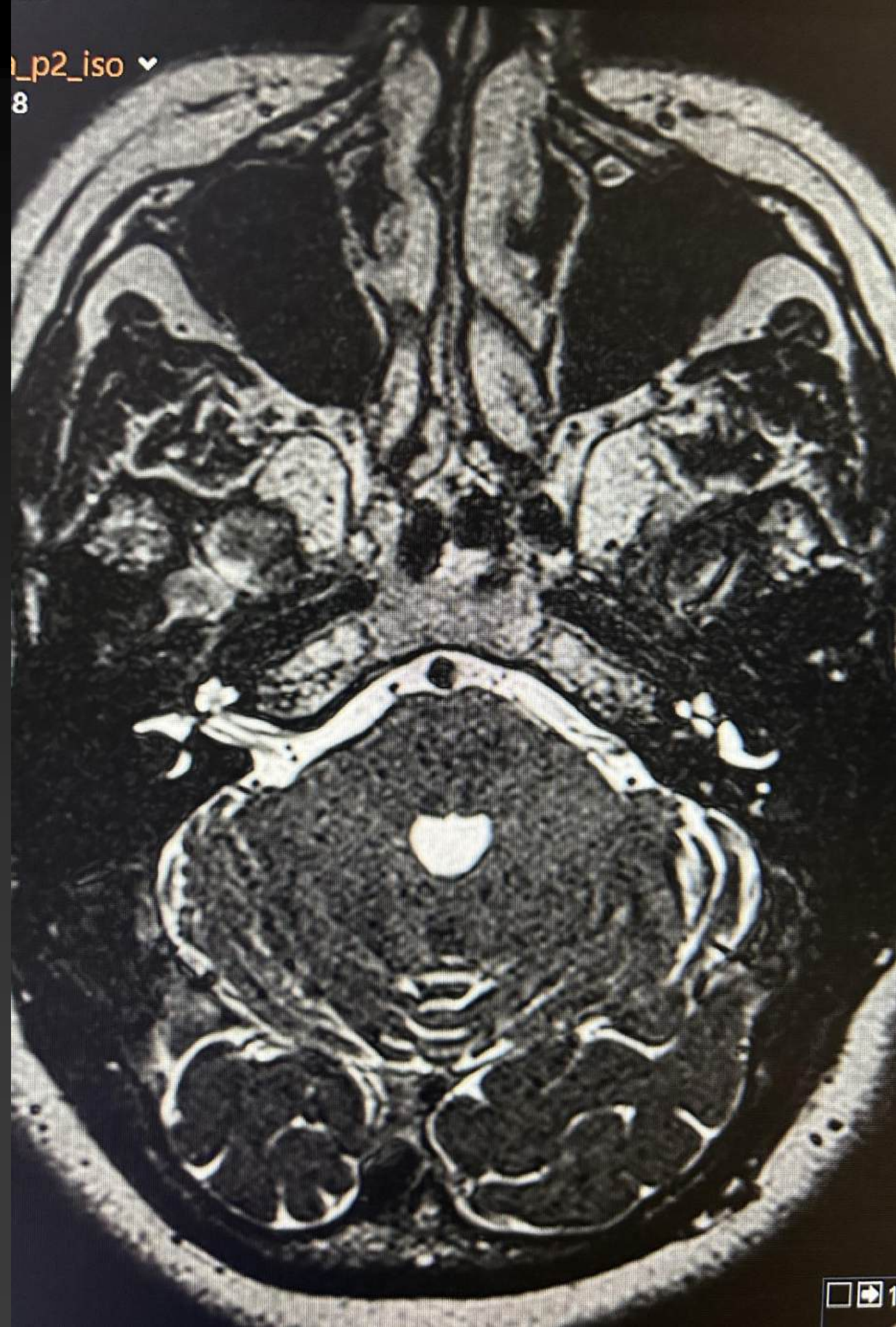


- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek



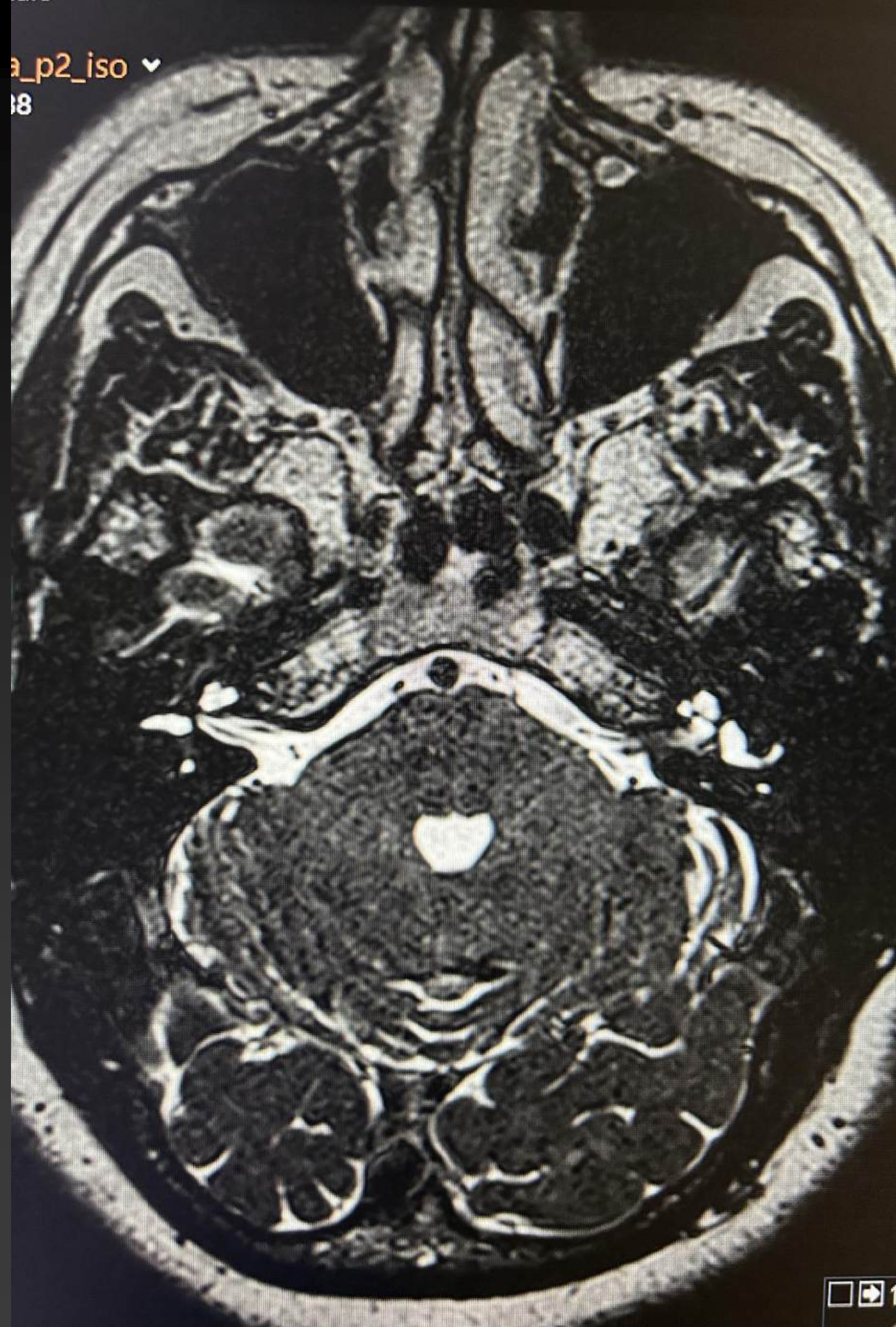


- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek





- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek





- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek





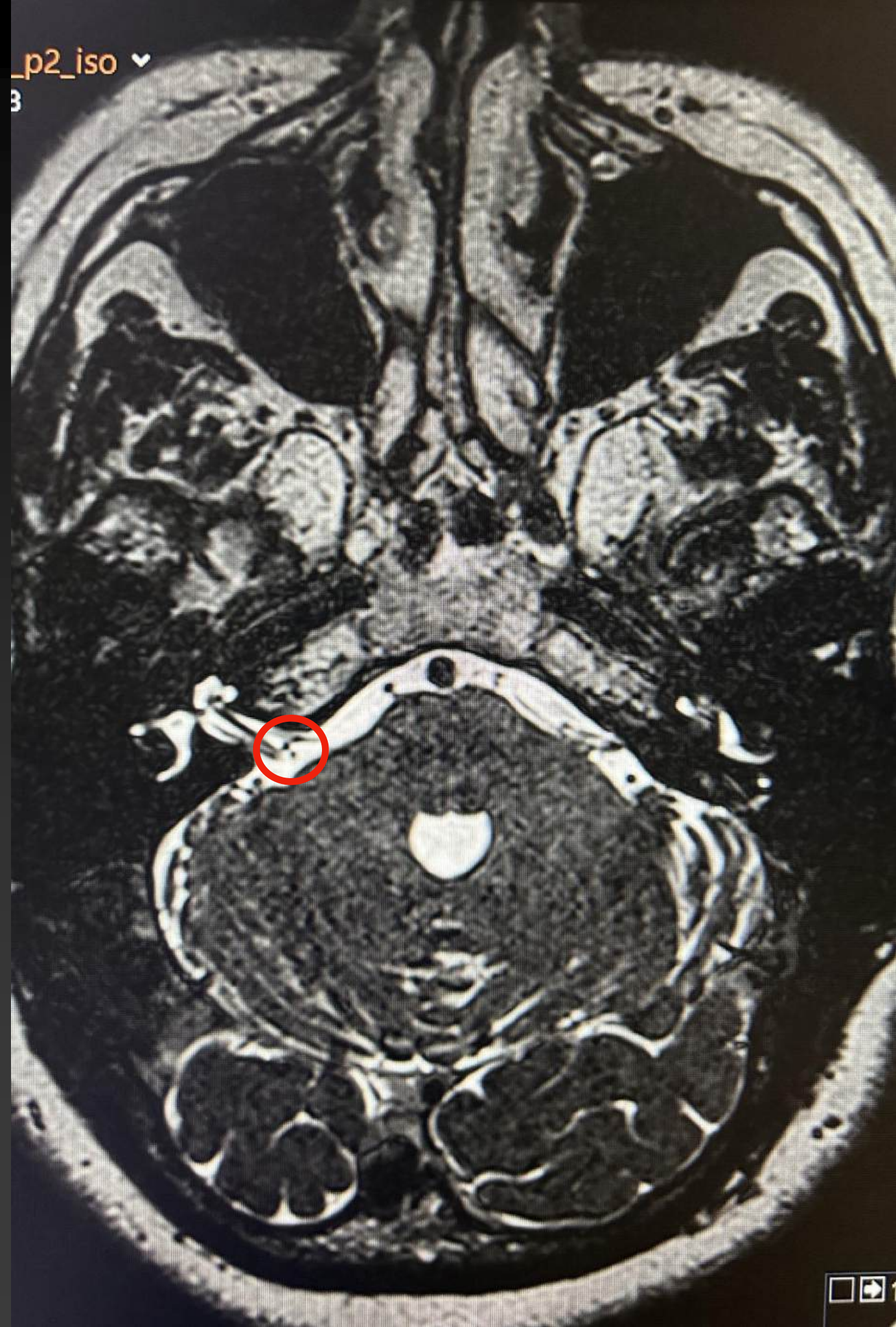
- 5-year history of involuntary twitching of right side of face
- predominantly blepharospasm, but also cheek



Sign of neurovascular conflict ?



- other possible neurological disturbances ?







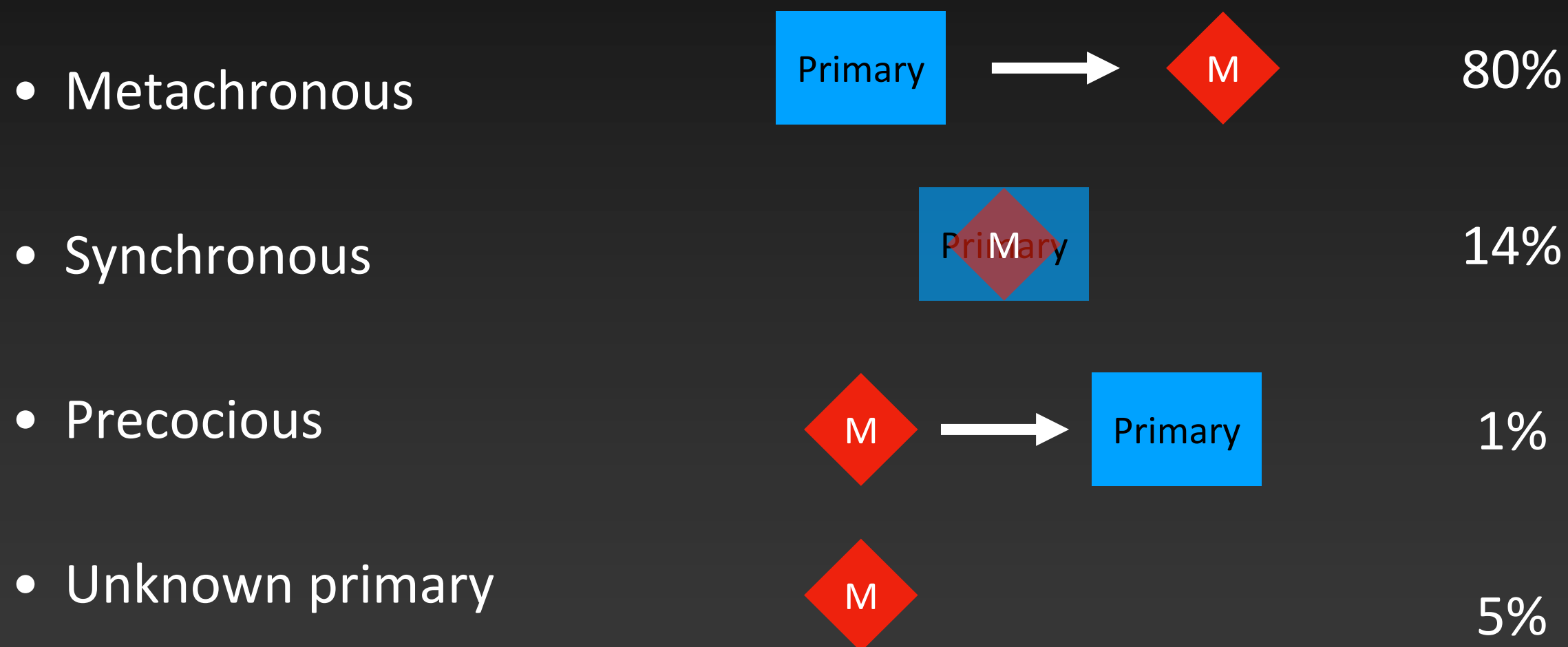
# Metastatic brain tumors



# Intro

- most common brain tumour (slightly over 50%)
- classically, sign of stage IV cancer => less than 1 year of life
- this notion is challenged, because of
  - advancements in oncological treatment
  - ... neurosurgery

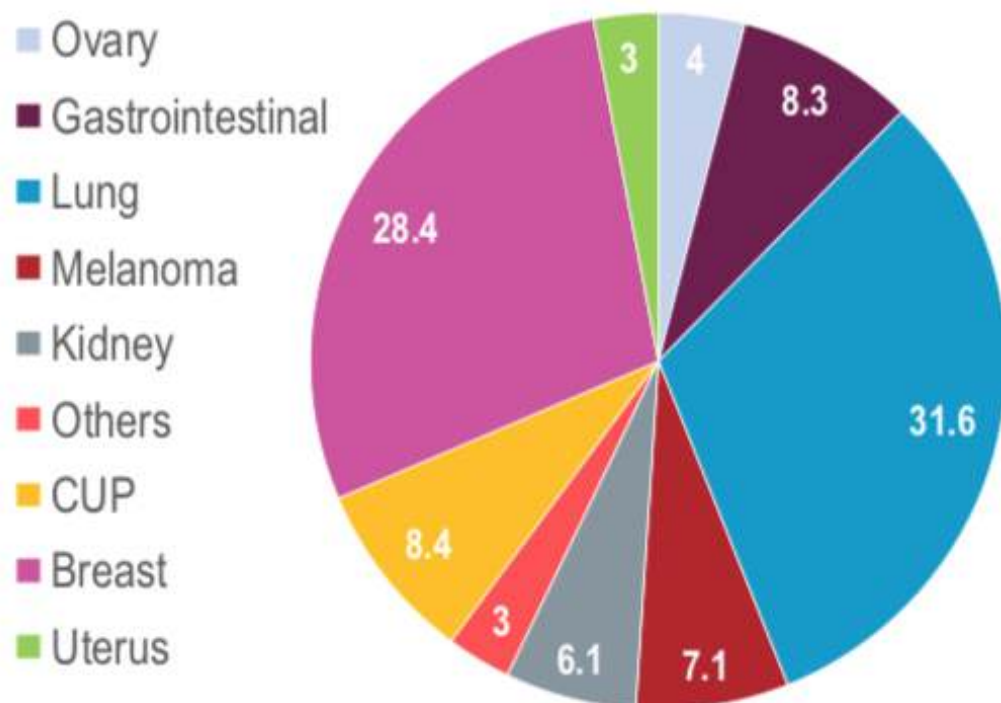
# Presentation



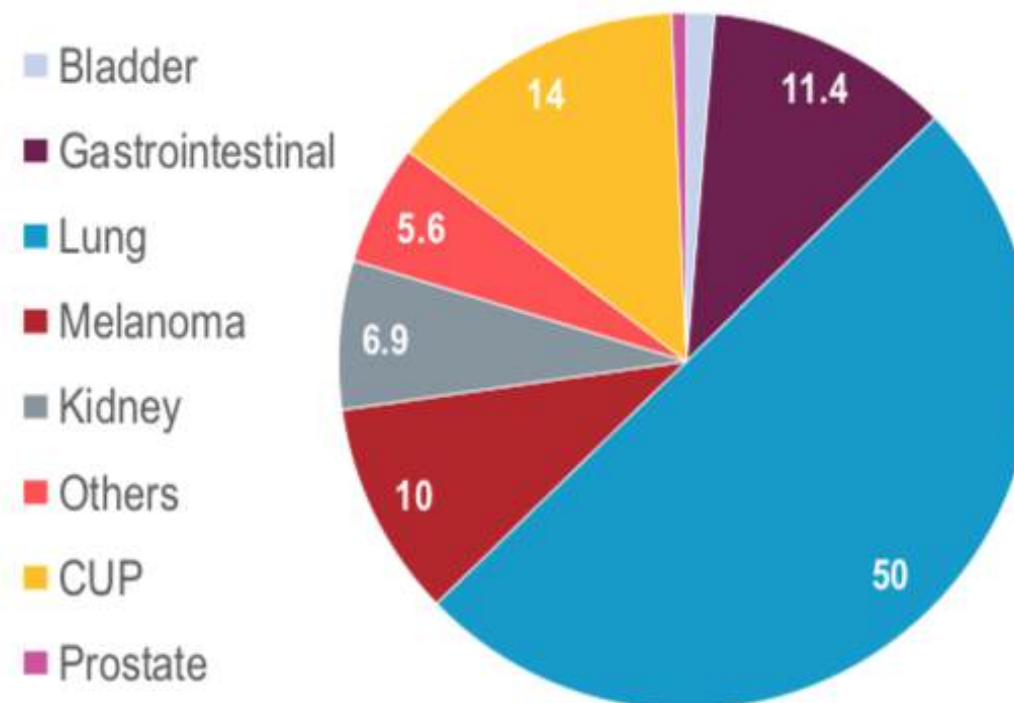
Impact on decision making regarding surgery?

# Primary tumor types

Females



Males



# Primary tumor types

• Lung	30% - 60%
• Breast	15% - 20%
• Melanoma	10% - 12%
• Gastrointestinal (colorectal)	8% - 12%
• Kidney	6% - 8%
• Other	15%
• Unknown	10%

# Location

- Cerebral hemispheres 80%
- Cerebellum 15%
- Brainstem 5%



# Symptoms

1. Headache > 40%
2. Cognitive (mental) change > 30%
3. Focal weakness 25% - 30%
4. Seizure
5. ...

# Diagnosis

Neuroradiology

# Treatment

Corticosteroids

Surgery

Radiotherapy - Radiosurgery

Chemotherapy

targeted therapy

immunotherapy

Best supportive care

## Depending on:

- Intracranial pressure
- Symptoms
- Number, size & site of metastases
- Extra-CNS disease control
- Performance status
- Sensitivity to systemic therapy
- Prognostic index: DS-GPA (disease specific-graded prognostic assessment)

# CASE 2

# Case 2

- 54 y.o. male
- Medical history - kidney stones, otherwise healthy
- 1 month of fatigue, coughing
- chest X-ray - right sided pleural effusion
  - evacuation of 1700 mL of exudate => malignant cells
- CT scan
  - pleural carcinomatosis, parenchymal consolidation, lymphadenopathy
- PDL1 neg, ALK neg, EGFR >80%

# Case 2

- Received 1st administration of chemotherapy

# Case 2

- Received 1st administration of chemotherapy
  - weakness of right leg

# Case 2

- Received 1st administration of chemotherapy
  - weakness of right leg
  - head CT

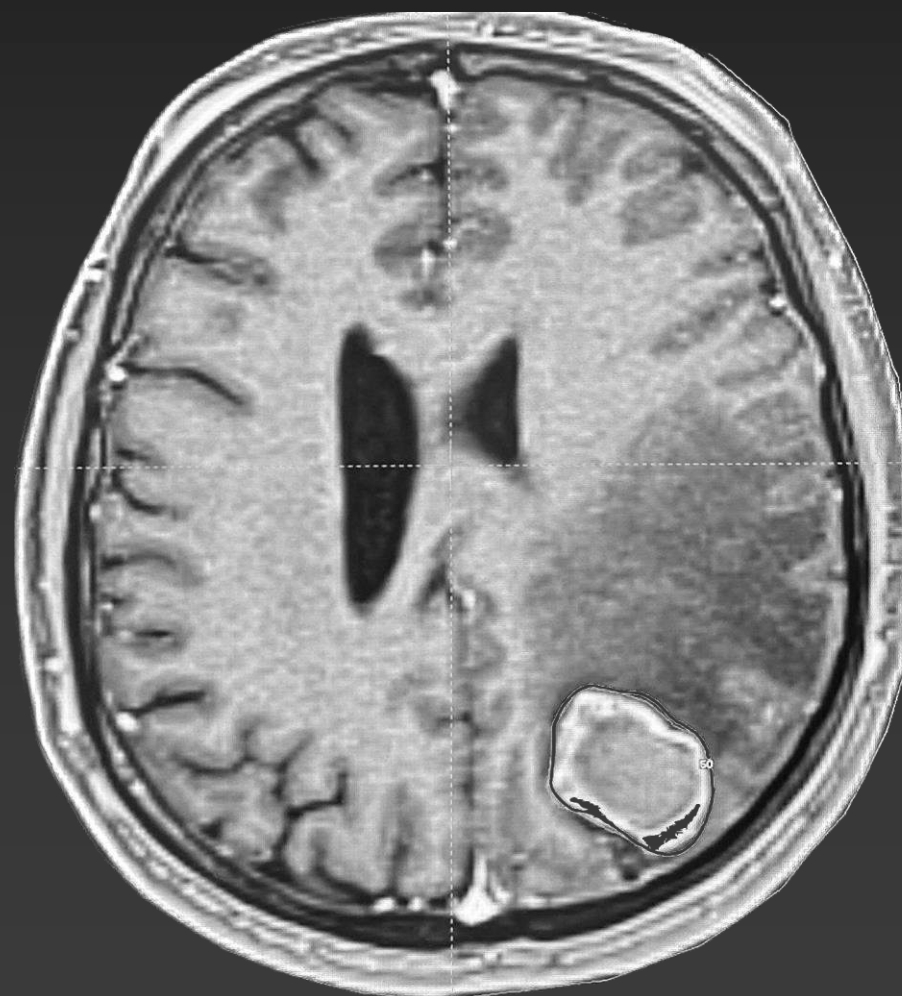


# Case 2

- Received 1st administration of chemotherapy
  - weakness of right leg
  - head CT
    - larger parietal M

# Case 2

- Received 1st administration of chemotherapy
  - weakness of right leg
- head CT then MRI
  - larger parietal M
  - additional 3 minimal M



# Case 2

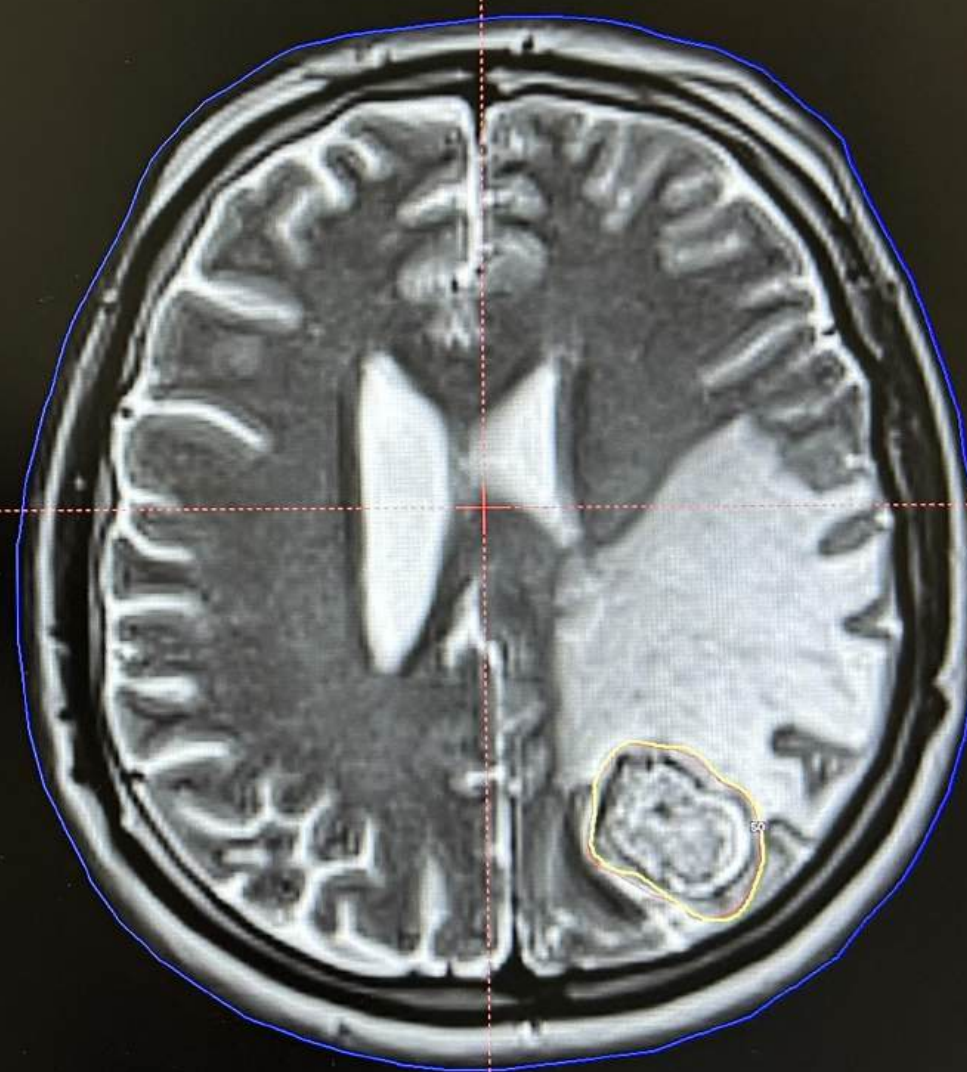
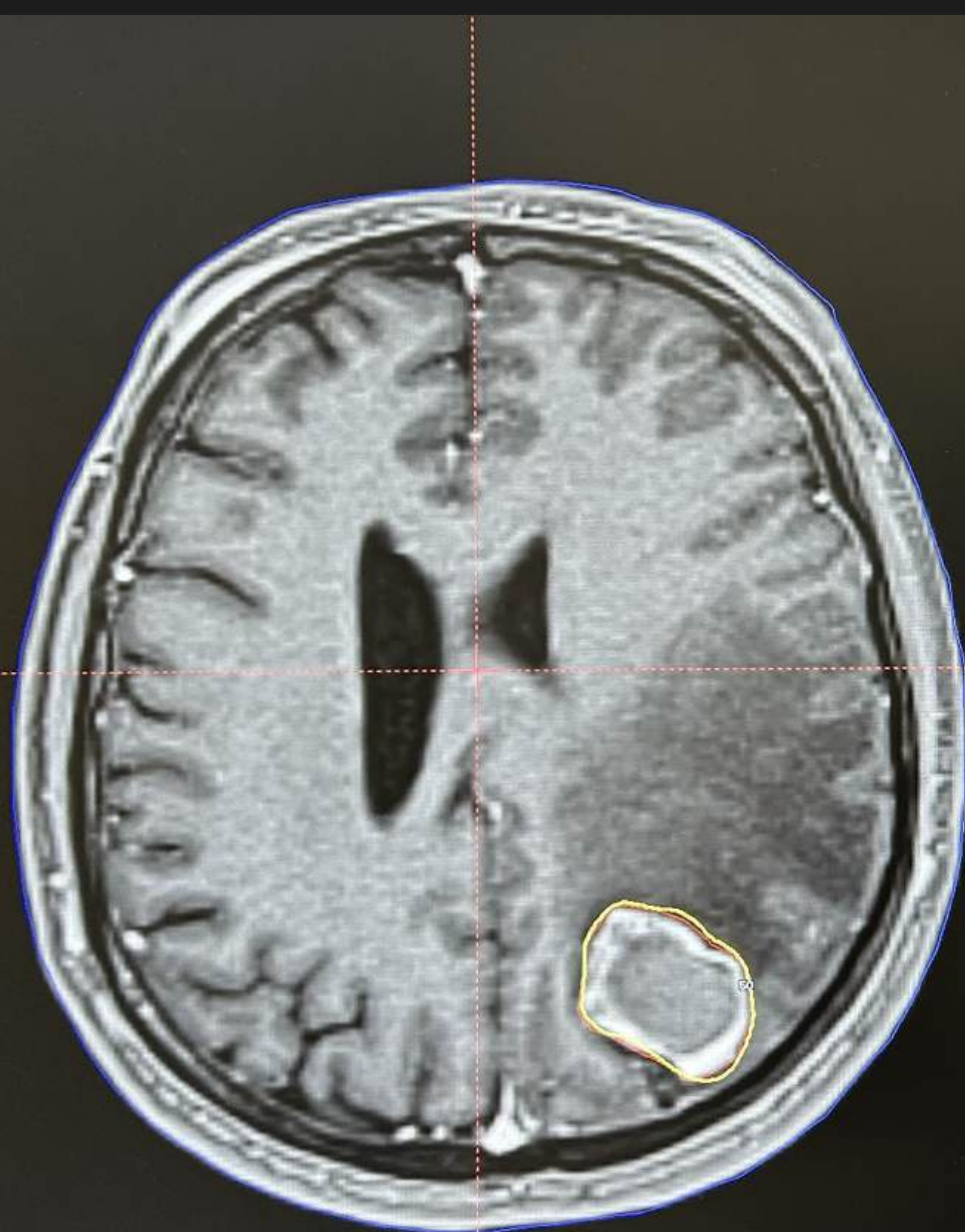
- Received 1st administration of chemotherapy
  - weakness of right leg
  - head CT then MRI
    - larger parietal M
    - additional 3 minimal M



Treatment options ?

# Case 2

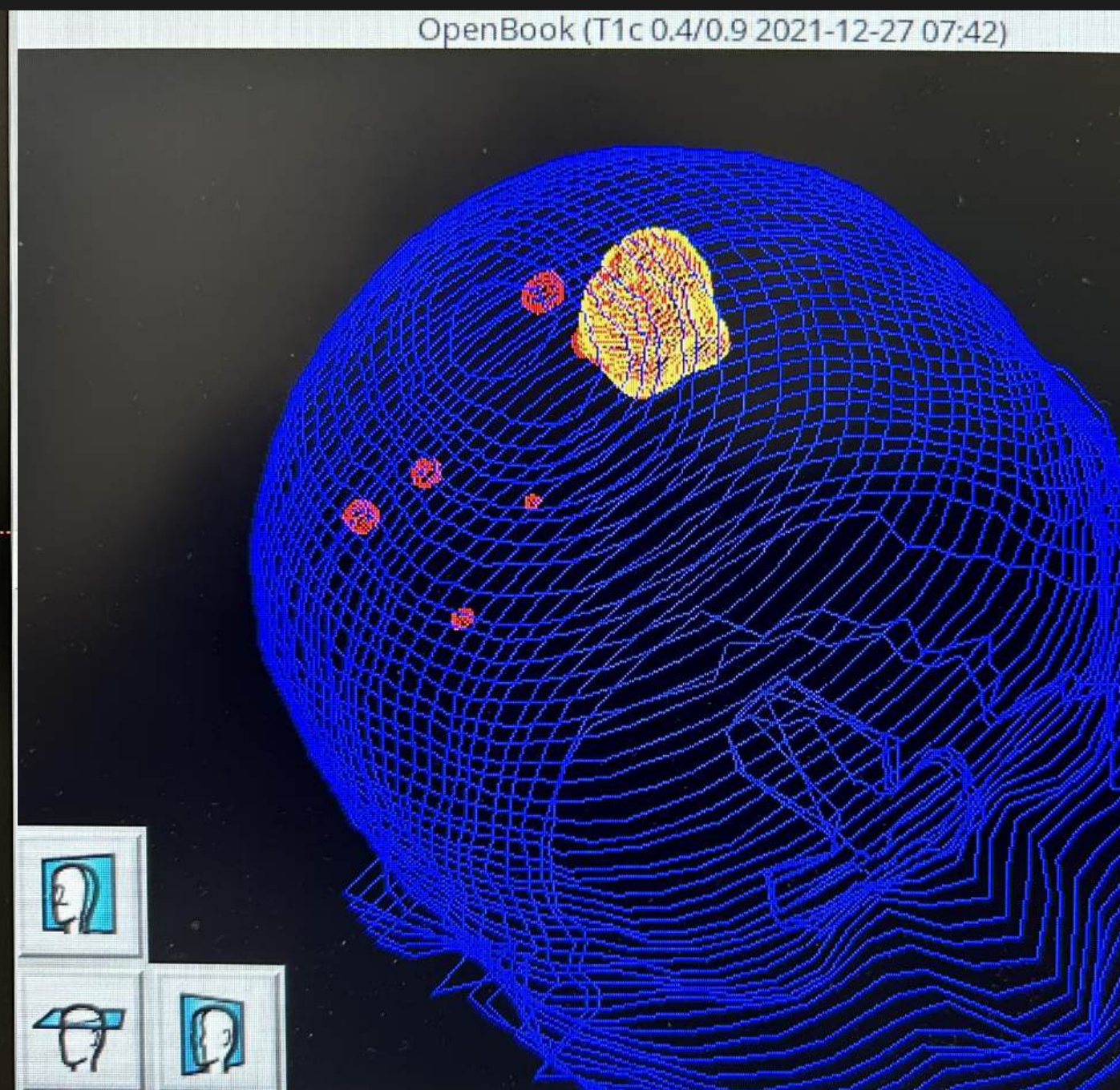
## Radiosurgery





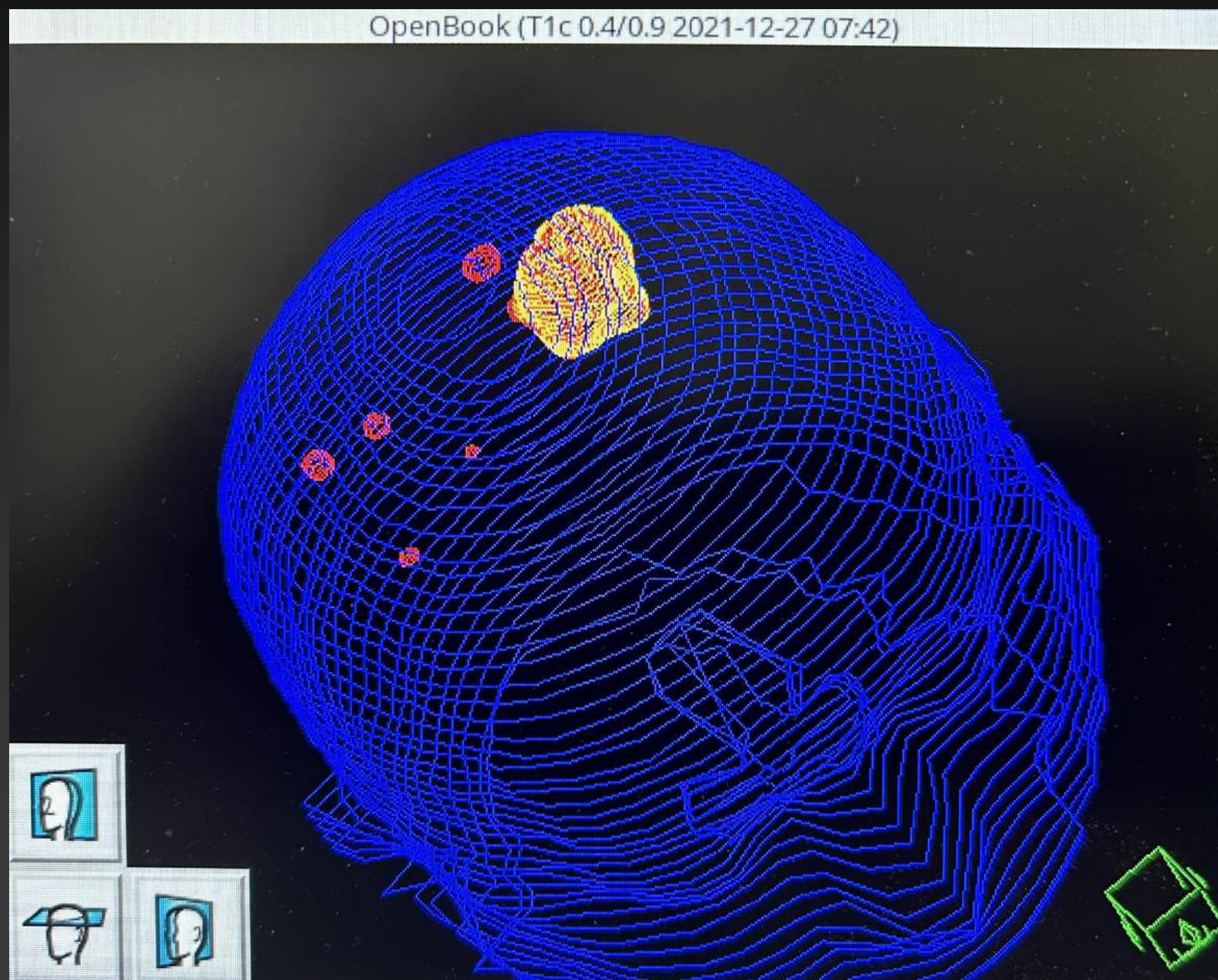
# Case 2

## Radiosurgery



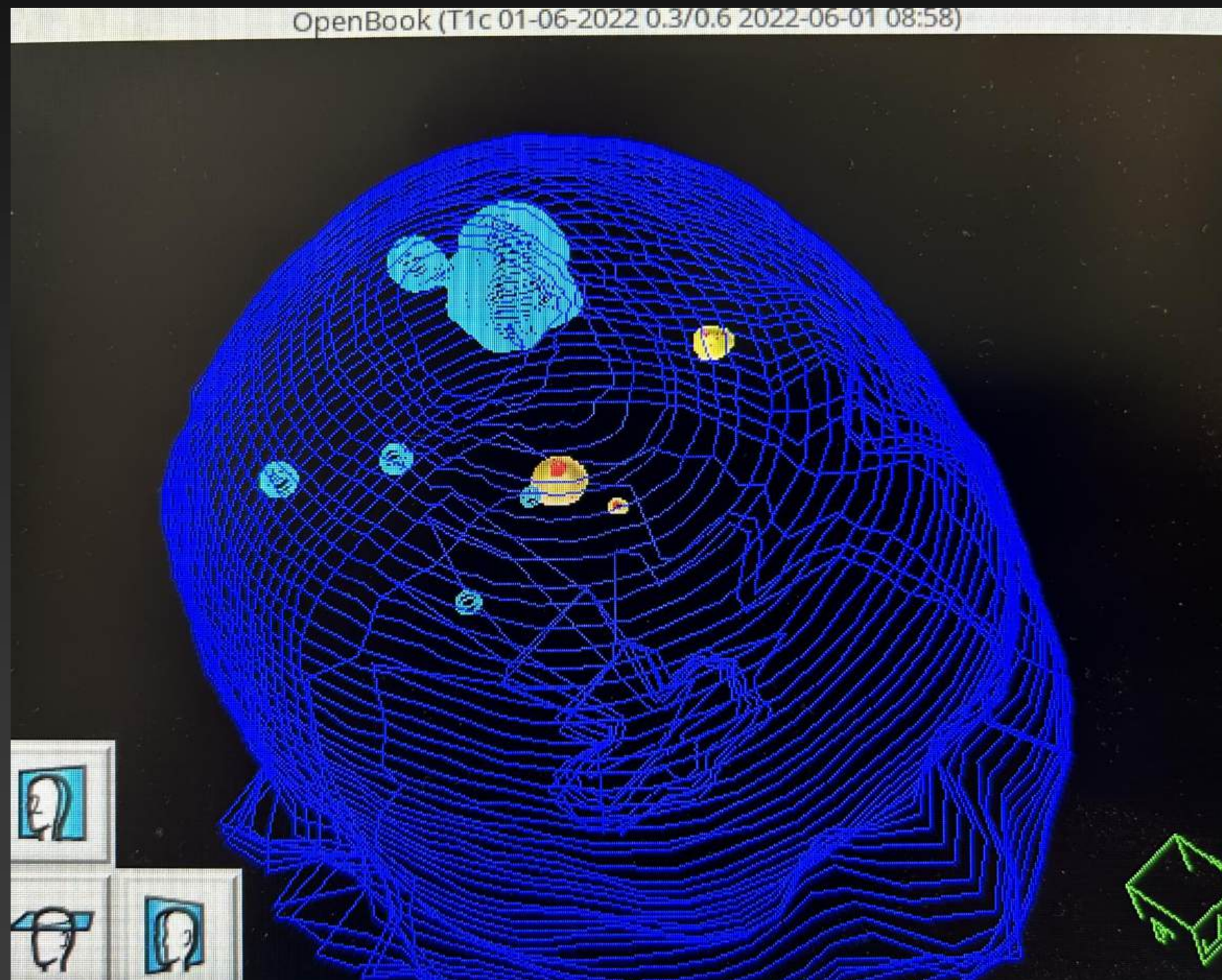


# Case 2



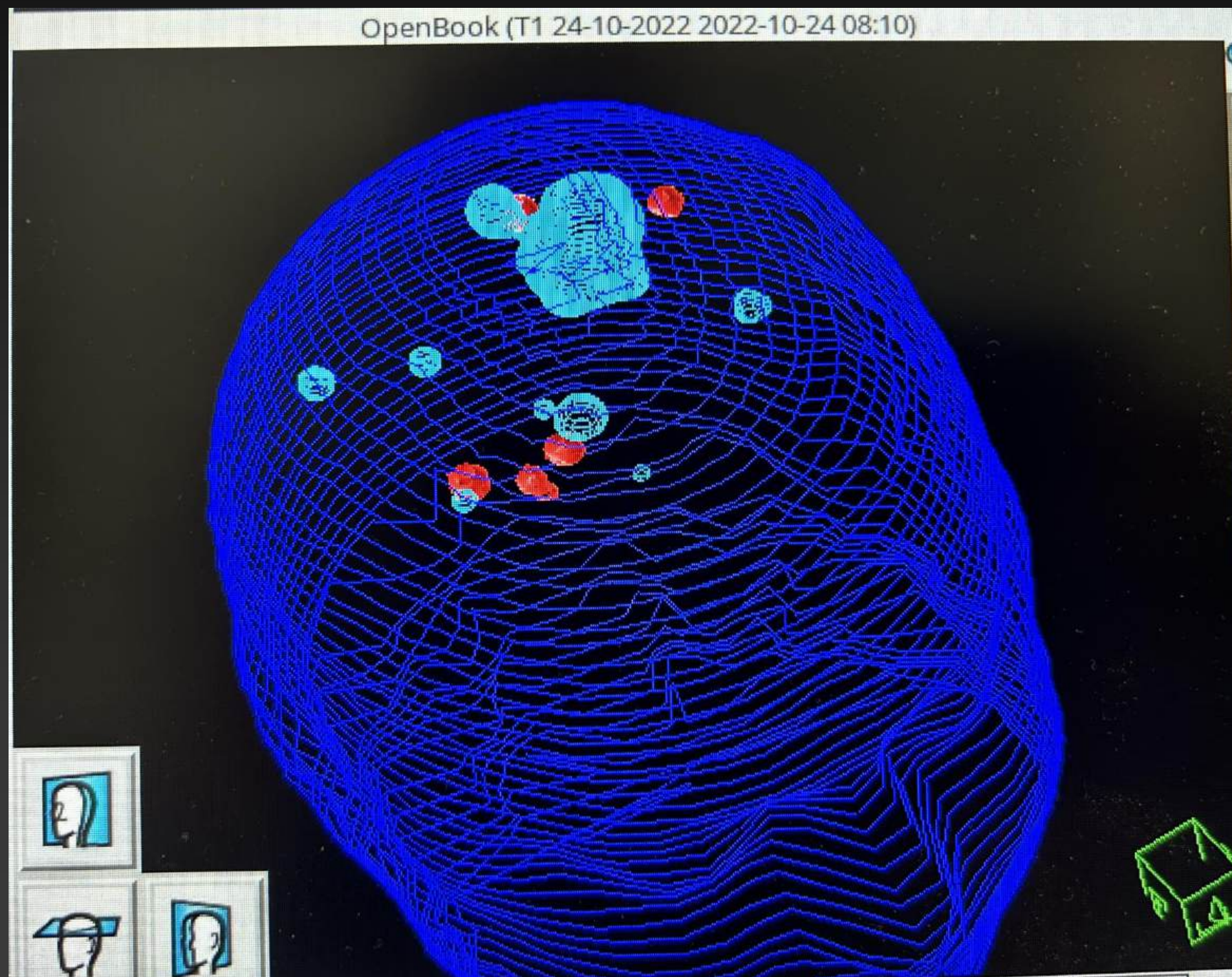


# Case 2





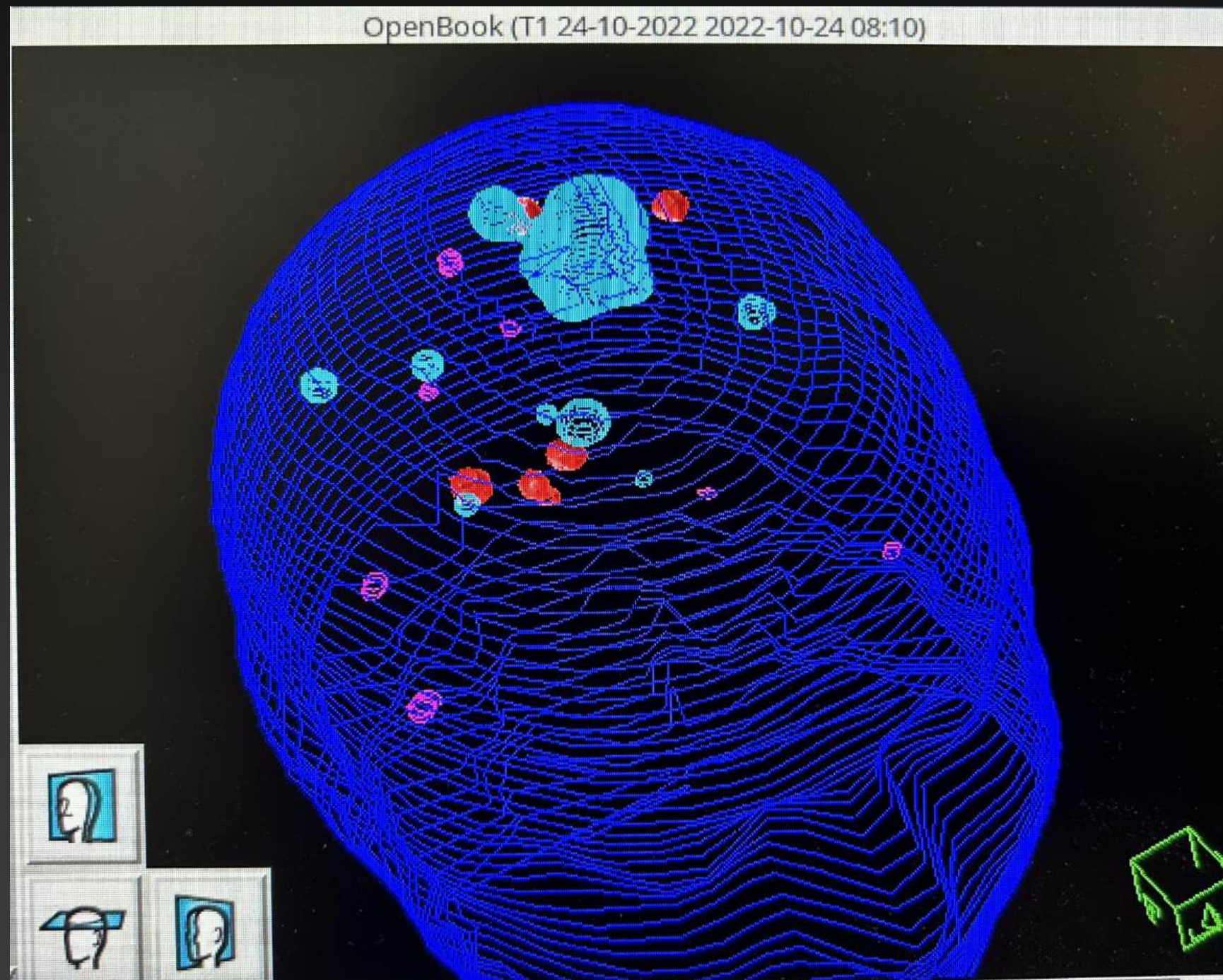
# Case 2



After another 4 months - 3rd Gamma Knife radiosurgery



# Case 2

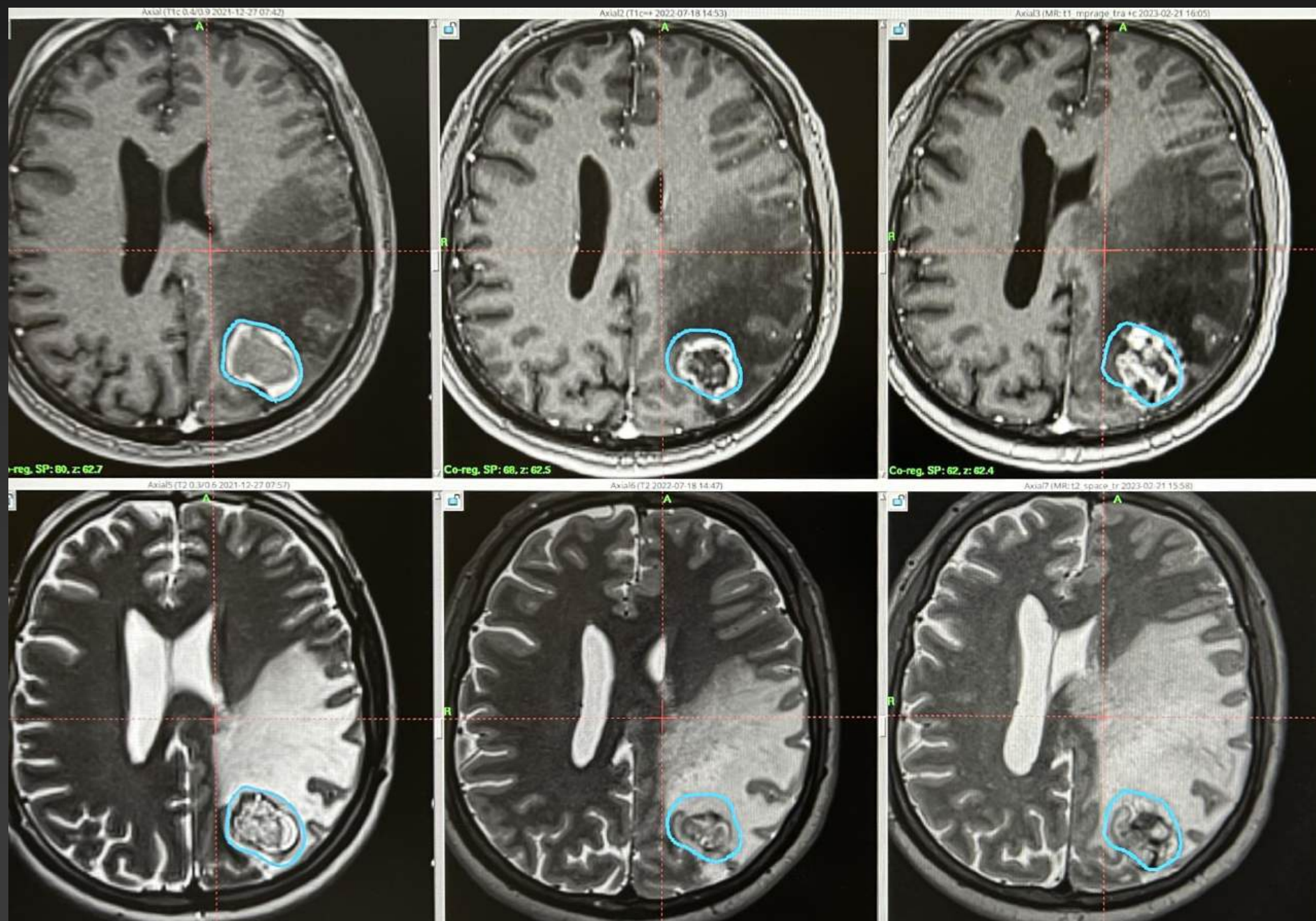


After another 3 months - new M - 4th Gamma Knife radiosurgery ?



# Case 2

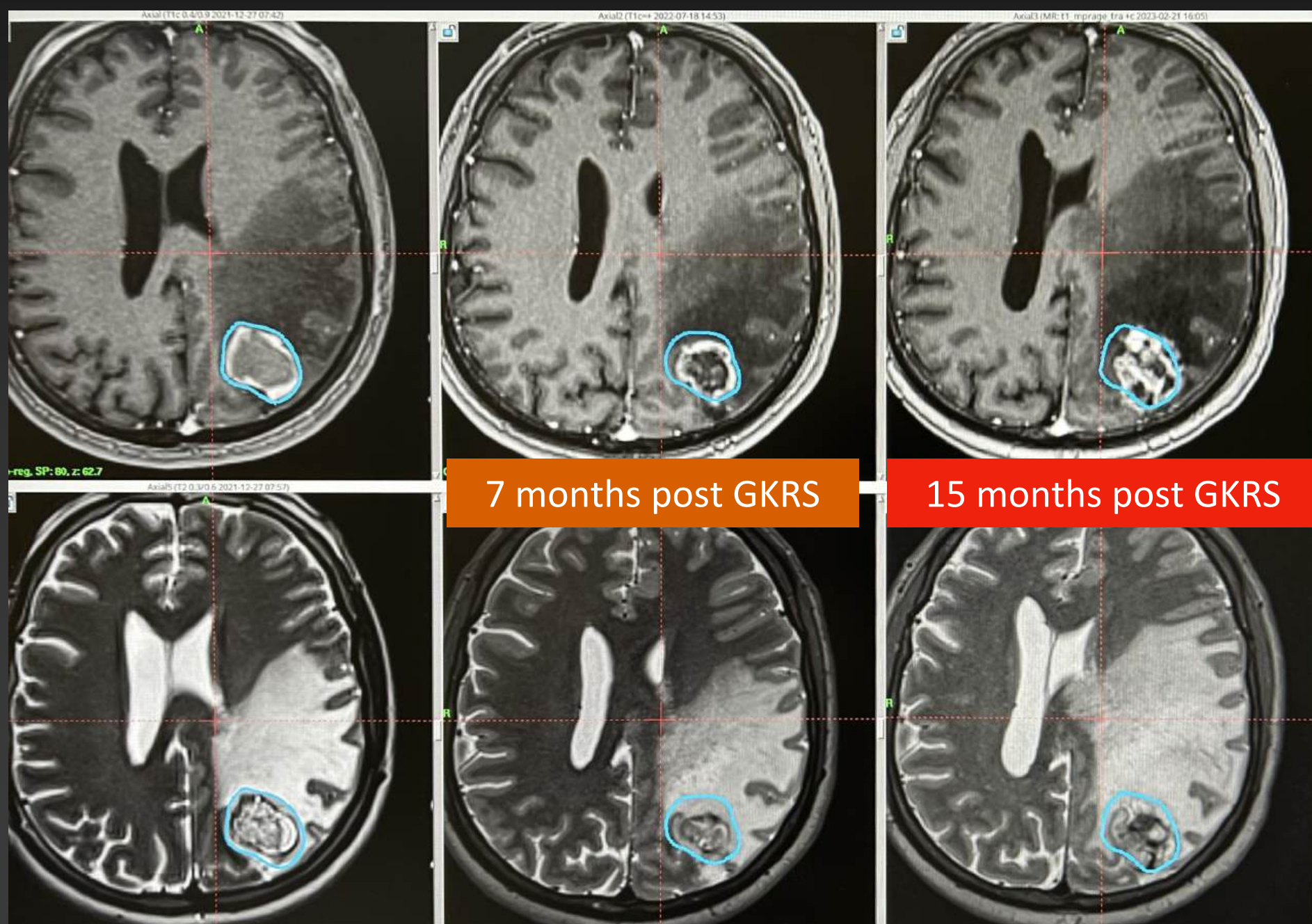
- Patient worsening of headaches, no neurodeficit
- corticosteroids on / off





# Case 2

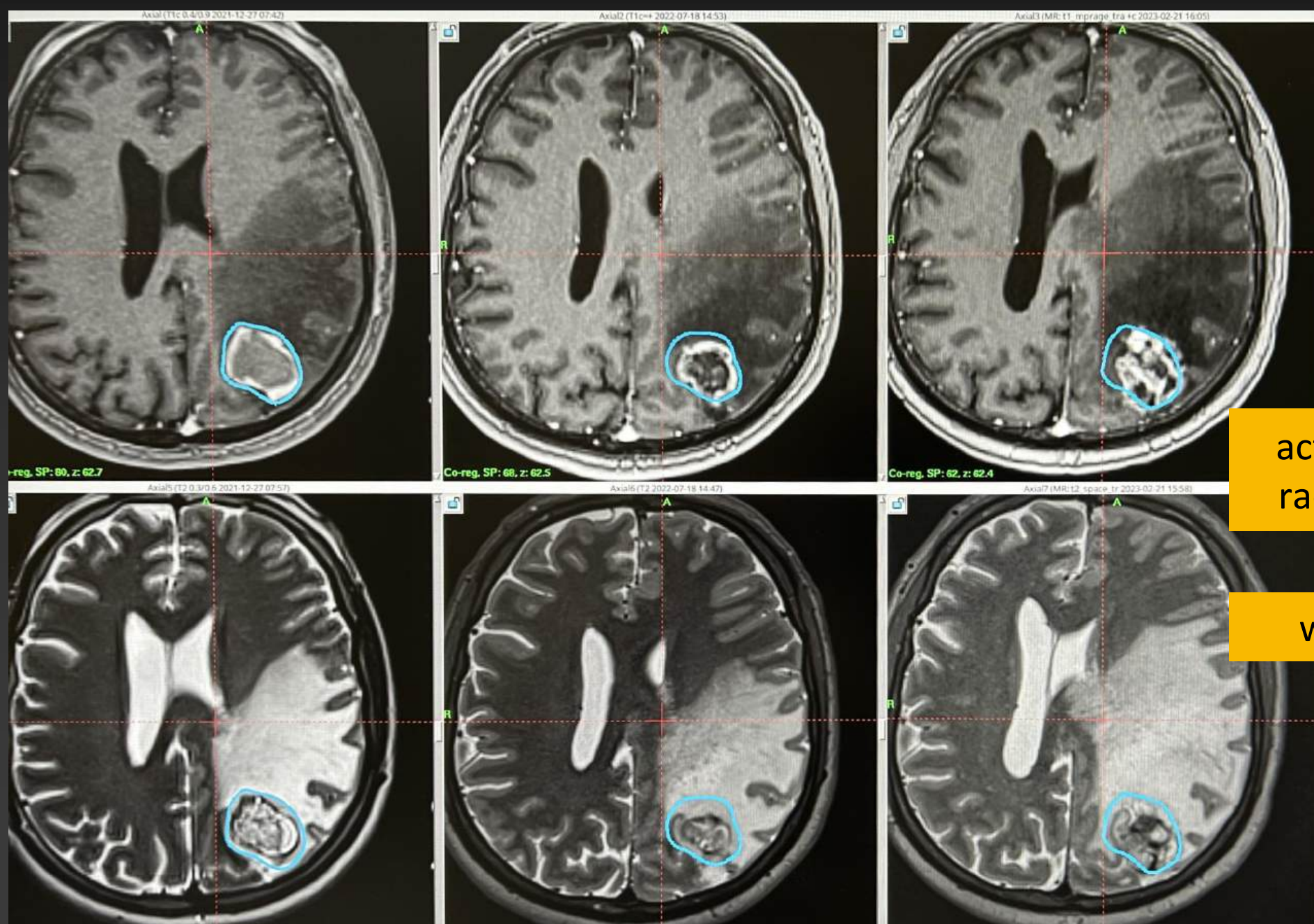
- Patient worsening of headaches, no neurodeficit
- corticosteroids on / off





# Case 2

- Patient worsening of headaches, no neurodeficit
- corticosteroids on / off



active tumor vs  
radionecrosis ?

what to do ?



# Pathology

## METASTASIS



**KLINIČKI ZAVOD ZA PATOLOGIJU I CITOLOGIJU**  
Medicinskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu  
10000 Zagreb, Kišpatićeva 12, tek +385 (1) 2388095  
Predstojnik: prof. dr. sc. Marijana Čorić, dr. med., specijalist patolog  
tel. +385(0)1 2388365, fax: +385(0)1 2388060



### NALAZ BIOPSIJE

Broj nalaza: **06362-23**

Primljeno: 23.03.2023

Uputio: NRK - NR4 - KLINIČKA JEDINICA -  
OPERACIJSKA DVORANA

Odgovoreno: 29.03.2023

Služba/Odjel: ZPA-JPR - ZAVOD ZA  
PATOLOGIJU REBRO

datum rođenja 30.03.1967,  
A, ZAGREB, ZAGREB - DUBRAVA

KLINIČKA DIJAGNOZA: C79.3 - Sekundarna zloćudna novotvorina mozga i moždanih ovojnica;

Dodatak:

Meta cerebri reg P sin

Meta cerebri multiplices

Adenocarcinoma pulmonum

Prima se na Kliniku za neurokirurgiju radi operativnog liječenja zbog klinički i neuroradiološki verificirane metastaze parijetalno lijevo. Do sada više puta provedeno radiokirurško liječenje zametastaze. Kontrolna MR mozga pokazuje daljnju progresiju perifokalnog edema oko velike tretirane metastaze lijevo poarijetalno, sada s izraženijim pomakom struktura preko medijane linije i subfalcinom hernijacijom te umjerenim praoširenjem kalibra ventrikularnog sustava.

#### MATERIJAL

1. Mozak - tm.cerebri

DTP I: PHL06

DTP II: PHL12

PATOHISTOLOŠKA DIJAGNOZA:

**ADENOCARCINOMA METASTATICUM CEREBRI.**

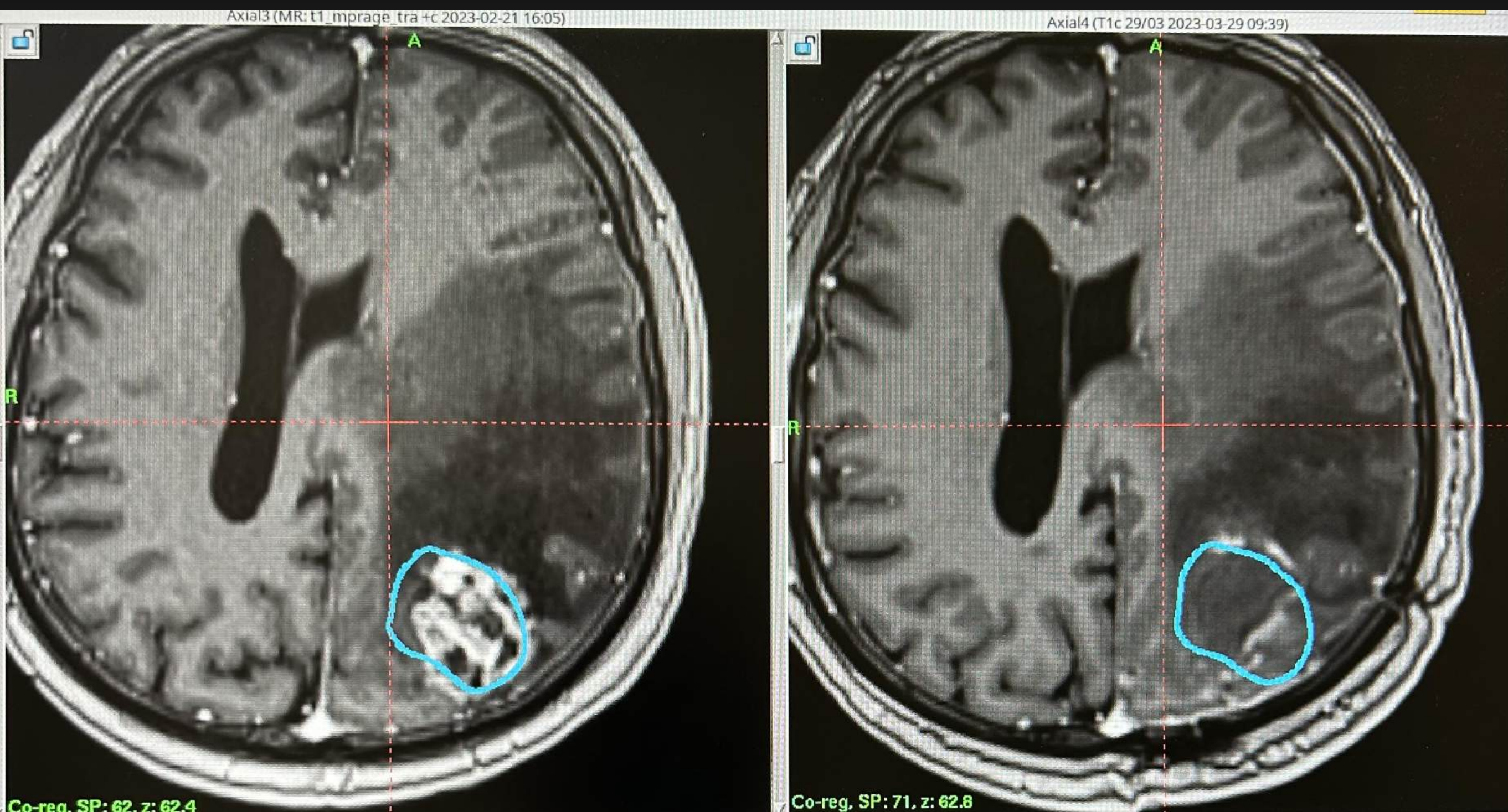
#### Nalaz i mišljenje

Primljen je nepravilan sivo smeđi komadić tkiva veličine 2,8x2,5x2,6 cm. Histološki nalazi se tumorsko tkivo, većim dijelom nekrotično i prožeto krvarenjem, građeno od solidnih nakupina i dijelom žljezdolikih formacija atipičnih epitelnih stanica koje su CK7+, TTF1+, napsin A+, CD56- i CK5/6-. Uz tumorsko tkivo rubno se nalazi i tkivo mozga.

Opisani nalaz u primljenom i pregledanom materijalu obzirom na kliničke podatke, histološku sliku i imunohistokemijski profil prvenstveno odgovara metastazi adenokarcinoma pluća.



# Postoperative MRI





# Further treatment ?

- tapering of dexamethasone
- GKRS vs fractionated WBRT ?



9<sup>TH</sup>

CONGRESS  
OF THE CROATIAN  
NEUROSURGICAL  
SOCIETY

& Joint Meetings with the  
**German Society of  
Neurosurgery** and **Czech  
Neurosurgical Society** &  
**Croatian-Japanese Special  
CSF Symposium**

**save the date**

**12 – 15 October 2023**

Fortis Congress center, Petrčane, Croatia

Technical organization:

**VIVID ORIGINAL Ltd.**

Contact: Goran Gribić

M +385 98 1706 028

E [goran.gribic@vivid-original.com](mailto:goran.gribic@vivid-original.com)



[www.neurosurgerycroatia2023.com](http://www.neurosurgerycroatia2023.com)