

CODE: TX200 M4174/3

ID NOS: HX189617 A15760

DIAGNOSIS: CEREBRAL ABSCESS (STAPHYLOCOCCAL)

CLINICAL HISTORY: M/67. Three weeks before death, this patient complained of vertigo and slurring of speech. Left hemiparesis developed and a right intracerebral lesion was identified and thought to be either a softening or neoplasm. A fever developed and he died quite suddenly.

MACROSCOPIC: There is an irregularly shaped abscess deep in the white matter of the cerebral hemisphere. Its cavity is lined by a ragged pyogenic membrane and the subjacent lateral ventricle contains bloodstained pus. Another section showed the abscess to have ruptured into the subarachnoid space. A coagulase positive staphylococcus was isolated post mortem.

MICROSCOPIC: Plasma cells (left) in the abscess wall indicates some degree of chronicity as does the presence of reticulin (right).

