

## **URBAN LEGEND TO REALITY: 'YOU'LL BECOME PARALYZED IF YOU MAKE A LONG PHONE CALL' STROKE CAUSED BY SUBCLAVIAN STEAL SYNDROME**

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**Introduction:** Excessive use of ipsilateral extremity is a risk factor for posterior circulation stroke in subclavian steal syndrome. Here is the presentation of a patient who had a vertebrobasilar stroke after making a 15-minute phone call with his left hand

**Case:** A 69-year old male was admitted to the ER with complaints of confusion and weakness on the left side of the body. No pathology except for the atrial fibrillation was found during the detailed cardiac assessment made in the ER. Acute infarct areas were seen in right thalamic, right occipital and left cerebellar zones in the cerebral MRI scan. The patient was first considered to have a cardioembolic ischemic cerebrovascular disease caused by atrial fibrillation but then diagnosed with left-side subclavian steal syndrome after his carotid and vertebral doppler ultrasound scan. Following a detailed reassessment of the case history, the patient was found to have made an approximate 15-minute phone call with his left arm and experienced loss of consciousness and left-side weakness thereafter.

**Conclusion:** When the patient first arrived at the hospital, he was considered to have a cardioembolic ischemic cerebrovascular disease but diagnosed with ischemic stroke caused by left subclavian steal syndrome. The case is favorable for presentation as it's an example of 'initial etiology may not always be right', and it is interesting that the incident was triggered by a long phone call.