Clinical summary

• Male 58 year-old with previously treated stage 3 NHL

• After 1 year of remission, he presented with tumour relapse in the left temporal lobe

• The patient underwent subsequent chemotherapy and returned for a post-treatment evaluation
PET findings

Intense FDG uptake in the left temporal and temporo-occipital region
Complete metabolic response of the brain lesion, with a new FDG avid lesion at the level of T1 vertebra on the post-treatment PET (arrow).

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Teaching points

- CNS involvement tends to occur as an early manifestation of relapsed lymphoma, with a median interval from diagnosis of 5-12 months.

- Aggressive lymphomas tend to involve CNS by either infiltration from adjacent tissue, with leptomeningeal disease, or distant parenchymal dissemination.

- The early occurrence of CNS events suggests that these patients had subclinical disease at initial diagnosis.