FRONTAL LOBE ATROPHY: The front part of each of the hemispheres of the brain is referred to as the frontal lobe. The term atrophy refers to a loss of size or bulk, and histologically, there is a reduction in the number of cells present.

Frontal lobe atrophy is a rather non-specific finding. In elderly patients, it may be associated with dementia, but in younger individuals, as here, I do not think that it has any clinical significance.

GLASGOW COMA SCALE (GCS): This is a very widely used and reliable measure of conscious level and coma, and it is calculated by subjective assessment of the circumstances in which a patient opens his eyes, plus his best verbal response to questions, and plus his best physical reaction to commands and pain. The scoring system is such that a fully conscious individual will score 15 out of 15, whilst the most deeply unconscious patient will score 3 out of 15; not surprisingly, degrees of unconsciousness or coma between these two extremes will score accordingly.

The major intention of the **GCS** is to detect changes, sometimes very subtle, in the level of consciousness, and it seems to be very successful in so doing, even when different observers are responsible for sequential examinations.

HAEMOCONCENTRATION: This is a generalised increase in the concentrations of all the various constituents of the blood, including the cells, the proteins, the enzymes, and the electrolytes. Several causes exist, the commonest being dehydration, - and I think that this is the explanation in this particular case.

HYPOTENSION: This is a sustained fall in the systemic blood pressure from the "normal" levels of (very) approximately 120/80 mm Hg.

HYPOXIC/ISCHAEMIC CHANGES: By definition, **HYPOXIA** is the inadequacy of oxygen supply to organs or tissues; in contrast, **ISCHAEMIA** represents inadequacy of blood supply to the relevant area. In practice, both often occur simultaneously, at least to a greater or lesser extent, - e.g. during **CARDIO-RESPIRATORY ARREST** (please see above), where failure of respiration causes hypoxia and cessation of the heart produces ischaemia.