Computed tomography (CT) head was reported as showing a subacute right insular cortex infarct (Figure 1). The patient was treated with antibiotics and aspirin. The diagnosis was revised to HSV (*Herpes simplex* virus) encephalitis after review by the medical team. Viral polymerase chain reaction on cerebrospinal fluid confirmed HSV-1 infection.

MRI 3 days later showed diffusion restriction changes consistent with the diagnosis of HSV encephalitis (Figure 2). Timely diagnosis and treatment of HSV encephalitis is essential given the generally poor prognosis in untreated cases. Loss of the insular ribbon is an early CT sign of middle cerebral artery infarction. However, in a delirious patient with fever, HSV encephalitis must be considered.

**Figure 2. Axial Diffusion Weighted MRI (DW-MRI) showed signal changes in the bilateral insular cortex**