

Cerebral Hypoperfusion as a Cause of Ischemic Stroke in a 46 Year-Old Female with Stanford Type A Acute Aortic Dissection: A Case Report

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We report a case of a 46 year-old hypertensive female smoker with sudden, severe retrosternal chest pain associated with vague, intermittent epigastric pain as the initial presentation of Stanford type A acute aortic dissection (AAD), who developed decrease in sensorium and verbal output and focal extremity weakness few hours into optimal systolic blood pressure (SBP) and heart rate (HR) control as a manifestation of ischemic stroke probably secondary to cerebral hypoperfusion. Approximately 6% of elderly male patients with type A AAD have been reported to have concomitant ischemic stroke due to extension of dissection to the cervicocerebral arteries or emboli from the site of dissection. Few studies state the lack of clear evidence of cerebral hypoperfusion as a cause of ischemic stroke in patients with type A AAD. One study involving type B AAD proposed that a higher mean arterial pressure (MAP) on presentation and greater decline in MAP, as what happened to our patient, are associated risk factors. Cranial MRI/MRA of our patient revealed recent infarcts in the watershed distribution with normal carotid and intracranial vessels, without involvement of the arch vessel. She was successfully managed with beta-blockers and other antihypertensive medications maintaining SBP between 120-140 mmHg following the stroke and HR of 60 bpm. Her neurologic and cardiac status improved after two weeks. While strict BP and HR control is the cornerstone in the medical management of AAD, caution should be observed in lowering the MAP to prevent debilitating sequelae, such as ischemic stroke due to cerebral hypoperfusion.

Biography

Dr. Acosta is a second year Cardiology Fellow at St. Luke's Medical Center – Quezon City and a Fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians. She has presented a case report at the International Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis in Netherlands in 2013 and has published a meta-analysis in the American Gastroenterological Association in 2014. She has recently presented a meta-analysis at the European Society of Cardiology 2019 in Paris, which was selected for presentation in the Best Abstracts Category at the ESC Asia last November 8-10, 2019. Her other researches beginning 2007 are also remarkable.

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