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Cortical vein thrombosis misdiagnosed and mismanaged

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Abstract

Cerebral venous thrombosis (CVT) should be considered in the differential diagnosis of all unexplained CNS disorders of sudden onset. Etiological factors are subclinical forms of several common thrombophilic states occurring together, rather than the typical, inherited and rare causes. Diagnosis is missed because of the heterogeneity in clinical presentation as well as the heterogeneity in etiological factors. In several patients with the so called idiopathic CVT, nutritional deficiencies and lifestyle issues are more important factors in pathogenesis, rather than single rarer causes. Hyperhomocysteinemia due to nutritional deficiencies is a very important and often overlooked issue in CVT. High index of suspicion is the key to diagnosis of the disorder and identifying the contributory causes. Clinical skill has to be fine- tuned to diagnose the problem and to identify all these etiological factors. Radiology is essential for confirming diagnosis but relying on radiology alone will lead to missing several cases and even erroneous diagnosis. It is inappropriate to proceed prematurely to laboratory investigations, forgetting proper clinical evaluation by studying diet, lifestyle, and environment of the patients. Success in managing lies in identifying all the contributory causes to venous thrombosis and correcting all of them giving excellent outcome almost always. Clinical observations based on case series and sharing of such information alone are the means to arrive at a consensus in diagnosis and management. The issues related to the disorder will be discussed with the help of case histories and own publications.

Biography

Professor of Medicine& Head, Department of Medicine & Hematology Division, Calicut Medical College, Dean Faculty of Medicine, University of Calicut, and Member Academic Council Kerala University of Health Sciences: Teaching experience of 31 years, Examiner for MD general Medicine, DM Haeamtology of various universities, JIPMER, and the National Board of Examinations. Member Editorial Board, Indian journal of Haematology. PhD research Guide for University of Calicut. Past State President, Kerala Government Medical College Teachers' Association