Letter by Gallerini et al Regarding Article, “Characteristics and Outcomes of Patients With Multiple Cervical Artery Dissection”

To the Editor:

We read with great interest the study of Bejot et al evaluating the characteristics and outcomes of patients with single and multiple cervical artery dissection (CeAD). In particular, good outcome (with only 12% of moderate-to-severe handicap at 3 months and none had died) was observed irrespectively of single or multiple vessel involvement. As major ischemic stroke because of artery-to-artery embolism is reasonably the main cause of disability in such patients and its prevention with antithrombotic therapy is considered effective, early diagnosis of dissection plays a key role to administer proper therapy, to prevent major stroke, and to reduce long-term disability. Thus an efficient and homogeneous diagnostic workup might contribute to explain the good outcome reported in both groups of patients with CeAD. This issue seems particularly relevant in patients presenting with mild symptoms (such as cervical pain, headache, dizziness, cranial nerve involvement, Horner syndrome, or slight focal signs, especially when isolated and transient) but, as correctly stated, has probably been understimated in the article by Bejot et al, who recruited cases through neurology departments, mostly in tertiary centers.

To elucidate this issue, we considered 18 consecutive patients with spontaneous CeAD presenting with mild symptoms (men, 8; women, 10; mean age, 54 years old; range, 31–87). Among 22 dissected arteries, 15 vertebral and 7 carotid were considered; CeAD was single in 14 cases, multiple in 4 cases. The symptoms were isolated pain, isolated dizziness, isolated lower cranial nerve involvement, Horner syndrome, or slight focal signs, especially when isolated and transient) but, as correctly stated, has probably been understimated in the article by Bejot et al, who recruited cases through neurology departments, mostly in tertiary centers.

Labels: None.

Disclosures

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References


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