

CEREBRAL VENOUS THROMBOSIS WITH SEVERE OPTIC DISC SWELLING – A CASE REPORT

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Purpose: To present a 43 year-old male with severe left optic disc swelling caused by cerebral venous thrombosis. The cause was obscure, but an orbital penetrated injury in the right eye five years ago might be associated.

Method: The diagnosis was confirmed by the angiography and MRA finding, and heparin infusion was started thereafter immediately. After treating for 3 weeks, the symptoms improved and heparin was changed to oral Coumadin. We followed this patient for 10 months.

Result: After treatment, the headache, optic disc swelling improved, but the visual field defect did not recover even 10 months later. The central visual acuity was good through the whole course.

Conclusion: The cerebral venous system drains the venous blood of brain, and obstruction of this system may result in severe morbidity even mortality. The angiography is the most important test to detect this disease entity. Early anti-coagulant therapy may be crucial to preserve normal neurological and visual function.

Key words: Cerebral venous thrombosis, optic disc swelling, anti-coagulant therapy

INTRODUCTION

Optic disc swelling is a common sign to ophthalmologists, and the possibility of cerebral venous thrombosis (CVT) is usually neglected.

The manifestation of cerebral venous thrombosis is variable, from no symptom to severe neurological

dysfunction, cerebral infarct and hemorrhage even death⁽⁴⁾, and the definite diagnosis is often delay. The long-term prognosis is uncertain due to few cases, some papers reported good prognosis because of early diagnosis and treatment^(6,19) in recent years. The treatment is also controversial, but anti-coagulant and fibrolytic agent therapy improved the outcome of cerebral venous thrombosis in most patients^(8, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18).

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