Cerebrospinal fluid fistula after combined spinal-epidural labor analgesia (CSE) - a very rare case report

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Introduction

Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leak may occur after CSE labor analgesia and can be a cause of Post Dural Puncture Headache (PDPH). If headache persists after treatment measures, continual leakage of CSF should be considered. Although rare, this leakage may lead to a fistulous tract - a cerebrospinal fistula¹.

Case Presentation

Discussion

Although most cases of CSF leakage are iatrogenic², it is **very rare to encounter CSF fistulas as a complication of CSE puncture**. During CSE, no accidental dural puncture was reported, but 3 punctures were necessary, indicating a higher risk of lesion. Orthostatic headaches are the main symptom of CSF fistulas². Initially fistulas can be hard to detect on spinal CT or MRI. **Myelography-CT was essential** to the diagnosis³. Treatment is at first conservative. If symptoms persist, **targeted blood patch** is a safe technique and was more effective than blindly placed blood patch in this case.²

References

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