Moyamoya Disease In The Differential Diagnosis Of Multiple Sclerosis: A Case Report

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Introduction

Moyamoya disease (MMD) manifestation may be insidious in young female patients presenting with unspecific neurological symptoms and atypical white matter lesions in MRI, mimicking Multiple Sclerosis.

The Patient

- 44-year old woman
- For years, complaining of intermittent weakness of her left arm- attributed to psychosomatic problems.

History & Examination

- Transient numbness of her right-sided face & arm with small brain lesions in MRI (Fig.A)
- Unremarkable except from plantar and jerky deep tendon reflexes.

Investigation

- MRA & DSA: revealed findings typically seen in MMD (Fig. B, C, D).

Management

- Antiplatelet therapy was initiated.
- Few days later, developed suddenly global aphasia & right hemiparesis (NIHSS 6).
- MRI revealed an acute infarct in the distribution of the left MCA (Fig. E, F).
- Thrombolysis was not performed due to the increased risk of hemorrhage in MMD patients.
- At discharge: NIHSS 3.

Discussion

- In young patients with transient neurological symptoms suggestive of Multiple Sclerosis and atypical, multifocal white matter lesions in MRI, MMD should be considered in the differential diagnosis.
- The key to diagnosis of MMD is imaging of intracranial vasculature.