Subarachnoid Haemorrhage after Stereotactic Catheterization of Intracerebral Hematoma

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Abstract

The authors report the complication that occurred after stereotactic catheterization in a 71-year-old patient with a spontaneous intracerebral hematoma (ICH). After stereotactic catheterization, a subarachnoid haemorrhage (SAH) was found in the post-operative CT scan. An SAH is a rare complication related with stereotactic catheterization. We investigated the cause and reported about a newly occurring SAH after stereotactic catheterization.

Keywords: Intracranial haemorrhage; Stereotactic techniques; Hematoma; Complication

Introduction

Blood pressure control [1], hemostatic therapy [2], Intracranial pressure (ICP) control [3], anti-convulsant therapy [4], and blood glucose control [5] are needed to treat intracerebral hematoma (ICH). In addition, neurosurgical operation may be considered depending on mental state, the location and amount of the hemorrhage, and neurological symptoms.

There are several surgery methods such as craniotomy, burr hole aspiration and stereotactic aspiration. Among such surgical modalities, stereotactic aspiration is the least invasive and most effective surgery for ICH patients. Stereotactic aspiration requires only a short operation under local anaesthesia, and there is little risk of damage to normal brain tissue [6]. Furthermore, catheters can be inserted precisely into the hematoma. However, they can cause complications, such as re-bleeding, infection, epidural hematoma, and neurological symptoms. The purpose of this case study is to report the cause of a subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) after stereotactic aspiration.

Case Study

This 71-year-old patient came to the hospital due to mental deterioration and left side weakness. His score on the Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) was 12 points, and his left side extremities showed hemiparesis with a poor motor grade. He had smoked for 25 years and he had been treated for prostatic cancer one year ago. In addition, he had been admitted to the hospital due to infarction and hypertension, and he was still taking anti-hypertension medicines.

On brain CT, there was an almost 25 ml ICH on the right basal ganglia. Stereotactic aspiration using a Leksell stereotactic frame was planned via the shortest approach (i.e., through the temporal area). Coordination was calculated with Surgiplan (Elekta, Stockholm, Sweden). Local anesthesia was done with lidocaine. Then, a bur hole was made for catheter passage, and through a 7-Fr silicon catheter, a roughly 5 ml blood clot was extracted and the catheter was fixed on the scalp.

On post-operative CT, a newly occurring SAH (Fisher grade 3) was found (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Immediate post-operative brain CT. The patient had a spontaneous ICH and was treated with stereotactic aspiration. In the post-operative brain CT scan, a newly occurring SAH (Fisher grade 3) was found. In addition, the silicon catheter was inserted into the middle of the hematoma.

We tried to find any vascular abnormalities by transfemoral cerebral angiography, but there were no remarkable abnormalities. We only found that there was a cortical vein in the course of the inserted catheter (Figure 2).
Intraventricular hemorrhage (IVH) patients, preoperative angiography or planning with enhanced CT images might help to reduce vessel injury [8].

Conclusion

An SAH during the stereotactic aspiration of ICH is very rare. In this case, a cortical vein injury that occurred during catheter insertion was suspected to have caused the SAH.

References