Giant symptomatic capillary telangiectasia of the brain

Telangiectasia capilar cerebral gigante sintomática

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A 30-year-old female reported sporadic paresthesia and tremors in the left hand, hemiface, and hemibody. MRI showed a lesion in the left pontomesencephalic junction (Figure 1), with brushlike enhancement after gadolinium administration, well depicted with maximum intensity projection (MIP) technique (Figure 2).

Despite its unusually large dimensions, the lesion was diagnosed as a capillary telangiectasia based on its characteristic imaging findings. The clinical picture was attributable to the lesion, and biopsy was not pursued. It is important to bear in mind that larger lesions may also occur, and the occurrence of symptoms may be related to the affected sites¹²³⁴⁵.

Figure 1. (A): MRI scan exhibits a focal lesion in the left pontomesencephalic junction, characterized by subtle hypointensity on T1-weighted; (B): Hyperintensity on T2-weighted; (C): FLAIR; (D): Marked low signal intensity on T2*-GRE images; (E): DWI shows low signal intensity with corresponding high signal intensity on (F): ADC map. All images are in the axial plane and focused in the area of interest. The finding of low signal intensity on T2*-GRE sequence (or, alternatively, SWI) along with high signal on FLAIR and T2-weighted images derives from the paramagnetic effect of deoxyhemoglobin (resultant from sluggish flow), instead of hemosiderin or calcification. Low signal intensity on DWI is a very characteristic feature and rules out other differential diagnosis, such as acute infarction.

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Figure 2. (A): MRI multiplanar reconstructions with maximum intensity projection (MIP) technique after intravenous gadolinium administration clearly demonstrates a brushlike enhancing lesion with lobulated margins; (B): Maximum lesion size is 1.4 cm, with no relevant mass effect, architectural distortion or edema in adjacent parenchyma; and (C): The occurrence of symptoms may be related to the topography and size of the lesion (dubbed as giant if larger than 1 cm in any dimension).

References