Intracranial dural arteriovenous fistula with perimedullary drainage treated by endovascular embolization

Fístula arteriovenosa dural intracraniana com drenagem perimedular tratada por embolização via endovascular

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A 66-year-old woman presenting progressive tetraparesis during the past month. Magnetic resonance (MR) showed nonspecific abnormalities in the cervical spinal cord (Figure 1), which could be related to demyelination, neoplasia or inflammation. However, these findings, in concomitance with extensive dilated perimedullary vessels, suggested myelopathy secondary to dural arteriovenous fistula (DAVF).

Digital angiography identified a Cognard type V intracranial DAVF (Figure 2). After prompt endovascular treatment (Figure 3), complete remission of symptoms was obtained.

Despite its intracranial location, type V DAVF presents, by definition, perimedullary venous drainage, which leads to venous congestion, and, consequently, intramedullary edema, progressive myelopathy and chronic hypoxia.

Figure 1. (A) Sagittal T2-weighted MRI of the cervical spine showing enlargement and signal change of spinal cord and bulb, characterizing myelopathy due to venous congestion. We can also see images of flow artifacts corresponding to enlarged perimedullary veins. (B) Coronal T1-weighted MRI after contrast injection showing venous ectasia around the bulb and spinal (white arrows).

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References