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External jugular vein aneurysm-A case report

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Venous aneurysms are rare causes of a neck mass. Aneurysm of external jugular vein (EJV) is very rare. Surgery is the treatment of choice. Aneurysm of the external jugular vein is a very rare clinical entity. The etiology is congenital or acquired. Acquired causes include trauma, tumor, iatrogenic trauma, thoracic outlet syndrome. Imaging techniques include ultrasonography, Doppler; rarely angiography is required. We report a case of EJV aneurysm in a 45 year old lady who presented with months duration. She had noticed increase in size of the swelling during coughing and speaking. There was no preceding history of local trauma. Clinical examination showed a 3 cm diameter, soft, non-compressible swelling in the right supraclavicular region. The swelling increased in size on coughing, Valsalva maneuver and speaking. There was no thrill or bruit. Ultrasonography and Doppler study of the area showed an eccentric, well defined, swelling measuring 30x13x25 mm seen arising from the distal part of the right EJV with blood swirling in the swelling. The communication with the EJV was 3 mm. CT angiography confirmed a 30x17 mm saccular aneurysm of right EJV at C6-C7 level, abutting the right sternocleidomastoid. The aneurysm was excised and the wall of the EJV was reconstructed with a Dacon patch. Post-operative Doppler study did not reveal any flow abnormality in the right EJV. Antiplatelet agent (Clopidogrel 75 mg once daily) was continued for six months. Patient is doing fine. Aneurysms of the cervical venous system are rare due to the low pressure in the veins. The Internal jugular vein is rarely involved. EJV aneurysms are extremely rare. The etiology is congenital fragility of the venous wall or acquired. Acquired causes are trauma, tumor, thoracic outlet syndrome, iatrogenic trauma. The aneurysm could be saccular or fusiform. Venous color Doppler is a useful imaging technique. Computerized Tomography angiography is the gold standard imaging technique. Surgical excision is the treatment of choice for fear of risk of thrombosis, rupture and for cosmetic reasons.

Biography

Rekha Matta has independently performed more than ten thousand cardiovascular and thoracic surgeries (adult & pediatric). She is currently working as a professor and HOD of Department of Cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at Krishna Institute of Medical sciences deemed university at karad, India.

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