ARCTIC HEALTH

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Cluster-like headache cause by cavernous sinus dural arteriovenous fistula, cured by transvenous embolization: a case report

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Abstract: We report a unique case of cavernous sinus(CS)-dural arteriovenous fistula(dAVF)with cluster headache-like ophthalmalgia without chemosis and exophthalmos, that was successfully treated by transvenous embolization. A 25-year-old man presented with severe right cluster headache-like ophthalmalgia and could not get complete relief of symptoms by medical treatment. MRI showed a hyper-intensity signal in the right cavernous sinus and cerebral angiography revealed Barrow type D cavernous sinus dural arteriovenous fistula, which is thought to be the cause of ophthalmalgia. Percutaneous transvenous embolization of the anterior part of the right CS and superior ophthalmic vein was performed and complete obliteration of dAVF was obtained followed by complete cure of cluster headache-like ophthalmalgia. We can detect neither the recurrence of dAVF on MRI nor any clinical symptom after 23 months of the treatment. This is the first clinical presentation of cluster headache-like ophthalmalgia caused by CS dAVF and it emphasizes the unique and important potential relationship between them.

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