

# <u>The Role of Neuroimaging in</u> <u>Secondary Headaches</u>

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### Disclosure

- Director of Neuro-imaging, DNI
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- Past-President of American Society of Neuro-imaging (ASN)
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- National Quality Forum Imaging Efficiency Steering Committee

### **Future of Imaging**

- Anatomic
- 1. CT
- 2. MRI
- 3. CTA/MRA
- 4. DWI/DTI
- 5. SWI
- 6. Volumetric

- Functional
- 1. MRS
- 2. PWI
- 3. fMRI
- 4. PET



### Houndsfield develops CT scanner

# 3-D reformatted images can be useful in defining skull and facial fractures.





### Depressed frontal fracture.

### **CT Scan**

- •Sensitive for acute intracranial hemorrhage
- •Excellent cortical bone detail
- •Quick and relatively inexpensive
- •Limited contraindications (pregnancy)
- Initial study of choice for head trauma
- acute trauma, SAH, MR contraindications



#### **Research Submissions**

#### Neuroimaging for Migraine: The American Headache Society Systematic Review and Evidence-Based Guideline

Randolph W. Evans, MD; Rebecca C. Burch, MD; Benjamin M. Frishberg, MD; Michael J. Marmura, MD; Laszlo L. Mechtler, MD; Stephen D. Silberstein, MD; Dana P. Turner, MSPH, Ph. Headache 2020;60:318-336

 There is no necessity to do neuroimaging in patients with headaches consistent with migraine who have a normal neurologic examination, and there are no atypical features or red flags present

#### Neuroimaging for Migraine: The American Headache Society Systematic Review and Evidence-Based Guideline

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2. Neuroimaging may be considered for presumed migraine for the following reasons:

- ✓ unusual, pro-longed, or persistent aura;
- increasing frequency, severity, or change in migraine clinical features, first or worst migraine,
- $\checkmark$  migraine with brainstem aura,
- ✓ confusional migraine,
- ✓ hemiplegic migraine,
- ✓ late-life migrainous accompaniments,
- ✓ migraine aura without headache,
- ✓ side-locked migraine, and posttraumatic migraine.

Most of these are consensus based with little or no literature support. Grade C (strong recommendation, low quality evidence



### **Headache Classification**

Part 1: **Primary headache disorders** Part 2: Secondary headache disorders Part 3: **Cranial neuralgias, central and primary** facial pain and other headaches

#### **Normal Anatomic Variant**

Ventricular asymmetry Cavum septi pellucidi/Cavum vergae

Cavum veli interpositum Arachnoid granulations Mega cisterna magna Enlarged Meckel cave Transverse sinus asymmetry

#### Parenchymal

White matter lesions Developmental venous anomaly Capillary telangiectasia Lipoma Low-lying cerebellar tonsils Prominent perivascular spaces Ependymitis granularis

#### **Cysts**

Pineal cyst Arachnoid cyst Choroid plexus cyst Choroidal fissure cyst Tornwaldt cyst Sinus retention cyst



### Incidental Findings Seen on MRI





Subtle FLAIR hyperintensity

**Contrast enhancement** 



### PINEAL CYST-ASYMPTOMATIC



Cyst is ovoid sl.hyperintense to CSF Cyst wall enhances minimally. No distortion of the tectum

Non-contrast sagittal and Post-contrast Axial

## **Pineal Cyst**

- 60% hyperintense to CSF on T1W1
- 90% hyperintense on PD/FLAIR
- 60% enhance
- 1-4% prevalence
- 80% less than 1 cm
- F:M = 3:1
- Clinical profile: Young female with nonfocal headache



## FLAIR





Pineal

Cyst





- The "first or worst" headache ("thunderclap")
- Subacute headaches with increasing frequency and severity
- Progressive or new daily persistent headache
- Chronic daily headache
- Headaches always on the same side
- Headaches resistant to treatment
- New onset of headaches in high-risk population
  - Patients with cancer
  - Patients who are HIV positive
  - Patients with dementia
  - Patients who are taking an anticoagulants
  - Patients with neurocutaneous syndrome
- New onset of headaches after age 50
- Patients with headaches and seizures
- Headaches associated with symptoms such as fever, neck stiffness, nausea, and vomiting
- Headaches with focal neurologic deficits not meeting the International Headache Society criteria of migraine with aura
- Headaches associated with papilledema, cognitive impairment, or personality change
- Headaches precipitated by exertion, Valsalva maneuver, or positional changes
- Atypical cranial neuralgias poorly responsive to treatment

#### **RED FLAGS**





### Subarachnoid Hemorrhage

### Subarachnoid Hemorrhage at 24h CT vs. Conventional MRI



Bakshi & Ketonen, 2001

Approximate probability of recognizing an aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage on CT scan after the initial event

<u>Time</u>	Probability (%)		
Day 0	95 (Adams et al., 1983)		
Day 3	74 (Adams et al., 1983)		
1 week	50 (van Gijn and van Dongen, 1982)		
2 weeks	30 (van Gijn and van Dongen, 1982)		
3 weeks	Almost 0 (van Gijn and van Dongen 1982)		

Reproduced with permission from Evans, R.W. (1999). Headaches. In *Diagnostic Testing in Neurology* (R.W. Evans, ed.), p. 9. W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia.

### Subarachnoid Hemorrhage at 24h





Bakshi et al., Neurology 2000;55:1595

# SENTINEL HEADACHES

- 50% of SAH
- 40-75% of pts seek medical attention
- Neck stiffness 30%
- N/V 20%
- Visual disturbances 15%
  Last 1 to 2 days, maybe as long as 2 wks

2 +c IP No cut

14,5 cm DARD 2

A 32-year-old woman with a 6 month history of intermittent disabling left frontal-orbital headaches and a normal exam

DI 40 00

nm0,75;1/A,5sp : 6.0 8:58 PM 727 L = 261





ring Focus No cut









## Carotid / Vertebral Arterial Dissection

- Carotid: 3 / 100,000
- Vertebral 1.5 / 100,000
- 2% of all ischemic strokes
- 10-25% of ischemic strokes in young / middle-age patients
- Affects all ages; peak in 5<sup>th</sup> decade
- Male to female ratio 1.5:1

# **CVAD: Etiology**

- Underlying arteriopathy (20%)
  - Ehlers-Danlos, Marfan's
- Fibromuscular dysplasia (15%)
- Minor trauma / hyperextension or rotation of neck
  - Yoga, coughing, vomiting, painting a ceiling, roller coasters
- Major trauma / sports injuries
- Chiropractic manipulations
  - 1 / 20,000
  - Chicken or the egg?

# Carotid Dissection: Classic Triad

	<u>Pain</u>	Partial Horners	<b><u>Cranial nerve palsy</u></b> 2-8%
Uni Uni Hea -ci	lateral neck 25% lateral facial/orbital 50% adache 66% <i>lassic:</i> frontotemporal, gradual, constant, aching <i>ariant:</i> thunderclap, occipital, hemicranial, throbbing, sharp n precedes other sx by average of 4 days	"Oculosympathetic crisis" <50% Miosis / ptosis -anhidrosis absent as facial sweat glands innervated by sympathetic plexus on external carotid artery	TIA Amaurosis fugax Unheralded ischemic stoke in 20% Blindness from ischemic optic neuropathy <u>Ischemia</u> 50 – 95% rare

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# Vertebral Dissection: Presentation

Initial manifestations less distinct than carotid dissection, often attributed to musculoskeletal pain

#### Local symptoms

- Neck pain (50%)
  - Precedes other sx by 2 wks
  - Headache (66%)
    - Non-specific in nature
    - Precedes other sx by 15 hrs
- Radicular pain

#### **Ischemic Symptoms**

- >90% of all patients
- Brainstem, thalamic, cerebral or cerebellar infarcts
- TIAs less common

### **CVAD: Convential Angiography**



Vertebral aneurysm



# Cerebral Venous Thrombosis (CVT)

- Incidence difficult to estimate
  - $\approx$  8 / 1,000,000 general population
  - 11.6 / 100,000 deliveries
- Female > male (1.3 : 1)

3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> decade

# CVT: Signs

- Papilledema
- Focal motor / sensory deficit
- Seizure
- Ocular findings
  - Chemosis, proptosis, painful ophthalmoplegia
- Cranial nerve deficits
  - Cavernous sinus: 3, 4, 5, 6
  - Transverse sinus: 9, 10, 11
  - Sagittal sinus: field cuts and lower extremity monoplegia







# **CVT: Symptoms**

- Headache present in 75-95%
- Tremendous range of headache description
  - Classic: persistent, slowly progressive, retro-orbital
  - Variations: thunderclap, diffuse
- Associated Symptoms
  - Any type of focal neurological deficits
  - Seizures
  - Altered mental status

CVT: Empty Delta Sign




## **Sagittal Sinus Thrombosis &**



## Magnetic Resonance Venography

## Absent flow in

- Right transverse sinus
- Sigmoid sinus
- Internal jugular vein



### Recommended Routine Use of Gadolinium in Patients With Headache

- Patients with abnormal neurologic examination
- Patients with positional headaches
- Patients with exertional or Valsalva maneuver– exacerbated headaches
- Patients with cluster or neuralgia-type headaches orfacial pain
- Ald Patients with known history of cancer, AIDS, or
  infectious disease

## **INTRACRANIAL NEOPLASMS**

- Headache present in 50%
- Worst symptom in 45%
- 77% tension type, Migraine-like 9%
- Pediatric > adult
- Classic Triad- sleep poor, severe pain and N/V occur in one-third of pts
- Focal neurologic deficit
- Seizure
- Posterior fossa mass- referred to occiput



## T2W

## T1W non-contrast T1W contrast







## craniopharyngioma



В





4-year-old with progressive headaches, papilledema and and obstructive hydrocephalus

# Meningioma



T1-non



"Trigeminal Neuralgia"



## Meningioma



VR: Vessels Only

LAOB CRAB

VR: Vessels Only

VR: All LA090 CRA0

R





## Skull Base Mass - Ped

S







# Vertex Headache Exacerbated by Neck Flexion



Furthermore.....

Abducens palsy (diplopia) Bilateral cranial neuropathies (VI-XII) Brainstem signs

**!!!!** Prudent to stabilize the neck before undergoing neuroimaging **!!!!** 

# "Thumb sign"





## Chordoma

## Leptomeningeal Disease







axial and sagittal T1 Weighted contrast

















# 7 y/o female

- Progressive daily headaches since 9/19
- Pressing occipital HA's radiating to neck
- Moderate to severe with N/V
- Awakens her at night
- Ibuprofen helps
- Grandparents have migraine
- Exam normal







Peg-like tonsillar ectopia 15 mm below the McRae line

# FLAIR axial



## T1 sagittal



 Partial empty sellar
 Tonsilla ectopia 15 mm
 Aquductal stenosis
 Enlargement of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and lateral ventricle

## Diagnosis

- Obstructive hydrocephalus with transependymal flow with a secondary Chiari malformation (15 mm) and empty sellar.
- Etiology? Tectal glioma or periaqueductal gliosis
- Treatment : ETV vs shunt

21-year-old female who presents today with concerns of worsening headaches and migraines. Headaches are occurring on almost a daily basis, and migraine frequency is at least once per week.



## **Basilar invagination**

#### McRae line, McGregor line



Chamberlain line

McRae line: connecting basion and opisthion the tip of the odontoid process normally projects below this line, therefore, basilar invagination is diagnosed when the tip crosses this line

Chamberlain line: connecting the posterior border of hard palate and opisthion the tip of the odontoid process projects normally not more than 3 mm above this line

McGregor line: connecting the posterior edge of the hard palate to the most caudal point of the occipital curvethe tip of the odontoid process projects normally not more than 5 mm above this line

# 58 y/o male with lancinating facial pain on the right



## T2 Drive axial sequence .5 mm



## T2 Drive coronal sequence .5 mm







25 y/o with thunderclap then chronic headaches and LBP

- MRA was negative
- Went bfrom ED to ED across the south for years
- LBP progressive aqnd radicular in nature



SWI siderosis





SWI

T1W

## Siderosis


## Myxopapillary Ependymoma



T1W non

T1W contrast

T2W

## **Dent Headache protocol**

- T1 axial 4mm
- 3d FLAIR axial 2mm
- DWI/ADC
- T1 sagittal 1mm
- T2W axial 4mm
- T2W Coronal 2.5 mm