Extradural cavernous hemangioma of thoracic spine

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Cavernous hemangioma of the central nervous system is a vascular malformation which is a developmental hamartoma, also known as cavernoma or cavernous malformation or venous angioma.

Cavernomas may affect any segment of the neuraxis. Most of these malformations are intracranial, supratentorial compartment is a site usually affected. Pure spinal epidural cavernomas represent approximately 12% of spinal cavernous anomalies and the thoracic segment is the most frequently affected. There are approximately 80 cases of epidural cavernous hemangioma published in the literature.

We report on a case of thoracic extradural cavernous hemangioma, with emphasis on the clinical aspects.

CASE

A 63-years-old female caucasian patient with a previous history of cryptogenic epilepsy was referred to our emergency department with complaints of a one-year history of gait ataxia, numbness and dysesthesia in both lower limbs. In the last 2 months, she also noticed reduced strength in the lower limbs.

Neurological examination showed reduced strength in the lower limbs, grade 4/5 in the right lower limb and grade 3/5 in the left one. There was reduced sensation for all sensory modalities below the T10-11 dermatomes. There was also lower limb hyperreflexia and hypertonia, with bilateral extensor plantar response.

An MRI showed an epidural space-occupying lesion involving the T9-T10 spinal canal levels and extending to the T9 left foramen, with an intense and homogeneous contrast enhancement (Figure).

The patient was submitted to a T9-T10 laminectomy, including a T9 left foraminectomy. A posterior soft and reddish epidural mass with a good cleavage plane was completely removed. The patient evolved with partial improvement of sensitivity in both lower limbs and strength.

Histological examination revealed thin-walled blood vessels lined with a single layer of endothelial cells, surrounded by connective tissue. The microscopic appearance was compatible with cavernous hemangioma.

REFERENCES


HEMANGIOMA CAVERNOUS EXTRADURAL DA COLUNA TORÁCICA

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