

The persistence of arteriovenous malformation influences the clinical phenotype of headache secondary to non traumatic subarachnoid hemorrhage

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Background: Although the severity and suddenness of onset is the most characteristic features of headache secondary to subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH), little is known about other headaches attributes in reference to SAH origin and its pathogenesis. Methods: The medical records of 431 consecutive non traumatic SAH patients (264 females and 167 males), ages from 19 to 91 years, presenting with headache (70.3%) and without headache (29.7%) during period of 11 years have been reviewed. Results: Among all analyzed data in reference to headaches features, although the persistence of arteriovenous malformation (AVM) was not in the association with headache occurrence in non traumatic SAH (OR 0.71 [95%CI: 0.41-1.21], p=0.213), its existence was in positive association with previous headache history (OR 1.74 [95%CI: 1.11-3.03], p=0.046), headache intensity (OR 2.24 [95%CI: 1.29-3.89], p=0.004), persistence of vomiting/nausea (OR 2.08 [95%CI: 1.13-3.83], p=0.018) and localized pain (OR 18.76 [95%CI: 9.68-36.37], p0.0001) in these patients. Conclusions: The presence of AVM is not recognized as a predictor for headache occurrence in non traumatic SAH but its existence could be associated with previous headache history, its intensity, accompanied symptoms and pain localization. *Keywords:* headache, non traumatic subarachnoid hemorrhage