

IMAGING IN MIGRAINE - A PICTORAL ESSAY

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Background: Migraine is a common and chronic disorder. It is a debilitating primary headache disorder that is ranked by the World Health Organization as the 19th among all causes of years lived with disability. Its prevalence varies from country to country and occurs in 5% to 20% of the population. It is usually considered benign; however it has been suggested as a risk factor for the development of infarcts and infarct-like lesions in the territory of posterior circulation. Reversible white matter abnormalities, vasospasm on angiograms and fatal migranous infarctions have all been reported in the literature. The true etiology of these lesions is still a matter of debate. Various mechanisms have been postulated including altered perfusion pressures and activation of the clotting and endothelin systems leading to vasoconstriction, thrombosis and resultant ischemia, however the underlying mechanism is still not clear. Material and Methods: I will be presenting my experience with imaging of patients with migraine as a pictorial essay with both isolated white matter lesions and reversible lesions. Conclusion: These lesions can cause apprehension in the mind of the sufferers and the treating physicians. Hence it is important to correctly diagnose these lesions and make the patient aware of the prognosis associated with these lesions.