

CLINICAL FEATURES AND THEIR FREQUENCY IN PATIENTS WITH POSTERIOR CIRCULATION ISCHEMIC STROKE

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INTRODUCTION: The posterior circulation ischemic stroke accounts for 20% of the ischemic strokes. About 8-14% of the patients with posterior circulation ischemic stroke have fatal consequences.

OBJECTIVE: The evaluation of the frequency of clinical features in patients with ischemic stroke in the vertebrobasilar territory.

METHODS: 51 patients with posterior circulation ischemic stroke (32 males and 19 females) admitted at our Service during 2012 were included in the study. In addition to an accurate neurological examination, a CT scan or an MRI scan was performed to confirm the ischemic lesion in the posterior circulation. The data were analysed with SPSS 12.1 and elaborated with chi square test.

RESULTS: The most common clinical feature was the balance disorder (dizziness), in 47% of the patients. 41% of the patients presented unilateral weakness of the extremities, 31% presented dysarthria, 31% ataxia, 28% headache, 27% presented nausea or vomiting and 24% nystagmus. The analysis of logistic regression concluded that exists a positive correlation between dysphagia, balance disorder, nausea, vomiting and proximal vascular territories. A positive correlation also exists between sensory deficit of the extremities, visual field disorder and distal vascular territories.

CONCLUSIONS: The clinical features in the vertebrobasilar ischemic stroke are significant and they can give a correct diagnostic orientation about the damaged territory.