

Stroke as a first manifestation of Takayasu disease

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Objectives: Takayasu arteritis (TA) is a chronic inflammatory disease of unknown etiology, which affects the aorta and its branches. The incidence of stroke in patients with TA is 10-20%, but there were only a few cases cited in literature where this was the first manifestation of the disease. Our case consists in a patient afflicted by TA who developed a stroke without previous symptoms. Background: The clinical varies from minimal changes like a diminished pulse to sever neurological complications. Neurological manifestations appear in 50% of the cases. Case description: Our patient is a 40 year old female, who presented left hemiplegia (involving the face also) and left hemianesthesia. The CT scan showed an acute infarction in the right MCA territory. There was a difference in the arterial tension values measured on both arms and an absence in the peripheral pulse in both legs (pedis artery), therefore a transthoracic echography was performed which revealed the absence of subclavian and carotidian flux on the right side. A chest and cervical CT scan was performed which confirmed the occlusion in the right subclavian and carotid artery and, furthermore, revealed the thickening of the thoracic aorta and a low pulse in the left carotid artery. The blood tests were within normal parameters (except a medium elevated VSH). A temporal artery biopsy was performed for differential diagnosis. The patient received the specific treatment for acute stroke and corticotherapy. An angiography was performed and two stents were inserted in the left carotid artery. Conclusions: What sets this case aside is the fact that our patient developed a cerebral infarction in the whole MCA territory due to vascular changes secondary to Takayasu disease which was otherwise asymptomatic till then.