

Cerebral Proliferative Angiopathy (CPA)

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The authors describe in this issue of our Journal a case report (see Neuroimaging Highlight article) of so called Proliferative Angiopathy (CPA), a term probably not familiar to most neuroscientists in particular those that are not specialized in management of neurovascular disorders. Cerebral Proliferative Angiopathy denotes a disorder that appears to mimic a cerebral arteriovenous malformation (CAVM).¹ However careful analysis of its imaging and clinical characteristics suggest a different disorder and therefore a different natural history and management strategy. It is therefore important to recognize this disorder as misdiagnosis (eg CAVM) will lead potentially to wrong treatment strategies and poor patient outcome.

The disorder tends to affect young females and may present with headaches, seizures or stroke like symptoms. Magnetic resonance imaging will demonstrate an increased amount of abnormal vessels interspersed with brain parenchyma with hypo perfusion characteristics in the region. Angiography demonstrates increased regional vascularity supplied by relatively normal size or even narrowed arteries with relatively slow drainage into slightly enlarged draining veins. Ischemia of the regional cerebral tissues is supported by the presence of transdural supply to the brain (although not shown in the current case report).

The risk of bleeding associated with CPA is believed to be much less than with classic CAVMs. Management is to be directed towards symptom control and by enlarge no active intervention is recommended. The authors are to be complemented on bringing this condition to our attention.

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REFERENCES

1. Lasjaunias PL, Landrieu P, Rodesch G, Alvarez H, Ozanne A, Holmin S, et al. Cerebral proliferative Angiopathy: clinical and angiographic description of an entity different from cerebral AVMs. *Stroke*. 2008; 39: 878-85.