



Solitary intraventricular hemorrhage without subarachnoid hemorrhage due to aneurysmal rupture: a case report

Seung Soo Kim^{1†}, Kyeong-O Go^{2†}, Hyun Park^{1*}, Kwangho Lee³, Gyeong Hwa Ryu⁴, Hye Jin Baek⁴,
Seunguk Jung⁵, Chang Hyo Yoon⁵, Young-Seop Park¹, Soo Hyun Hwang¹

¹Department of Neurosurgery, Gyeongsang National University School of Medicine and Gyeongsang National University Changwon Hospital, Changwon, South Korea, ²Department of Neurosurgery, Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, Seongnam-si, South Korea, ³Department of Neurosurgery Gyeongsang National University School of Medicine and Gyeongsang National University Hospital, Jinju, South Korea, ⁴Department of Radiology, Gyeongsang National University School of Medicine and Gyeongsang National University Changwon Hospital, Changwon, South Korea, ⁵Department of Neurology, Gyeongsang National University School of Medicine and Gyeongsang National University Changwon Hospital, Changwon, South Korea
†; Contributed equally authorized

The presence of primary intraventricular hemorrhage (IVH) without vascular lesion is very rare. We experienced solitary IVH without subarachnoid hemorrhage due to aneurysmal rupture in a 58-year-old man treated with coil embolization, which contributed to his good prognosis. After 33 days of hospitalization, he had mild right hemiplegic symptoms remaining, and he was transferred to a rehabilitation institute for further treatment. In cases of primary IVH, computed tomography angiography seems worthwhile for making a differential diagnosis, although the possibility of IVH due to cerebral aneurysmal rupture is very low. Endovascular intervention is a good option for diagnosis and treatment.

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Correspondence to Hyun Park

Department of Neurosurgery, Gyeongsang National University Changwon Hospital, Gyeongsang National University College of Medicine, 11, Samjeongja-ro, Seongsan-gu, Changwon-si, Gyeongsangnam-do, South Korea, 51472

Tel : +82-55-214-2440

Fax : +82-55-214-1031

E-mail : lcoo3004@naver.com

ORCID : <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-2422-4389>

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INTRODUCTION

Intraventricular hemorrhages (IVHs) are usually secondary to intra-parenchymal hemorrhages (IPHs) adjacent to ventricles or subarachnoid hemorrhages (SAHs), and head trauma is a frequent cause of IVH. However, primary IVH without any evidence of SAH or IPH on a non-contrast-enhanced computed tomography (CT) scan is very rare, accounting for 3% of all

intracranial hemorrhages.^{4,21)} In many previous cases, vascular abnormalities such as arteriovenous malformations (AVMs) and cerebral aneurysmal ruptures, could have been the cause of bleeding.⁴⁾ To the best of our knowledge, there are very rare cases of solitary IVH without SAH result from aneurysmal ruptures.^{1,6,8,9,11,12,13,19,26)} We describe our experience with diagnosis and treating an extremely rare case of solitary IVH without SAH due to aneurysmal rupture.

Description of Case

A 58-year-old man was transferred to the emergency room because of headache, dizziness, and altered mentality; his initial Glasgow coma scale score was 13. He had no history of hypertension. He provided inappropriate responses to questions and showed memory disturbance. He also had right-sided weakness of motor grade IV.

The initial brain CT scan revealed solitary IVH and mild enlargement of the left lateral ventricle, and the hemorrhage expanded through the foramen Monro to the contralateral anterior horn of the lateral and third ventricles (Fig. 1A, B). For a differential diagnosis, CT angiography (CTA) was performed and revealed a ruptured aneurysm in the left proximal anterior choroidal artery (Fig. 2A, B). Immediate conventional angiography was performed and showed a ruptured 7-mm left anterior choroidal artery aneurysm with bleb (Fig. 3A-C). The aneurysm was sequentially embolized with an endovascular coil. Then, the drainage of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was done through a lumbar drainage catheter rather than through external ventricular drainage (EVD) for 7 days to facilitate washout of IVH (Fig. 4A, B).

Transcranial Doppler ultrasonography was performed daily for 10 days and revealed no evidence of vasospasms. After 33 days of hospitalization, the patient had mild right hemiplegic symptoms remaining, and he was transferred to a rehabilitation institute for further treatment.

Discussion

Solitary IVHs, non-traumatic spontaneous IVHs without SAH or IPH, are very rare.^{2,3,5,7} Reportedly, solitary IVH accounts for 1% to 3.1 % and up to 8.8 % of all non-traumatic intracranial hemorrhages.^{3,7,24} IVHs manifesting secondary to a cerebral vascular lesion or expanding from the parenchymal hemorrhage near ventricles occur more often.²⁴ However, the actual incidence of primary IVH is unclear because primary IVH may be one of the causes of sudden death, occurring before the patient reaches the hospital or

before brain imaging evaluation can be performed.¹⁰ In most cases, cerebral aneurysmal rupture manifests with SAHs, and even acute subdural hemorrhages, IPHs and IVHs.^{14,15,18} About 2% of radiologically diagnosed SAHs were associated with IVH.¹ Additionally, isolated IVH caused by cerebral aneurysmal rupture without SAH is extremely rare (0.12%) and associated with a relatively poor outcome.¹

Previous studies revealed that hypertension is the most common contributing etiology of primary IVH, and in cases of no vascular lesion, diabetes, hyperlipidemia and coagulopathies were other contributing factors.^{2,5,20,23} Vascular abnormalities such as AVMs and aneurysms, were the second most common cause, and the other causes remain unknown.²³ In some previous case series, vascular malformation and aneurysms were considered the most common causes, accounting for 25-57 % of cases.^{2,3,7,16,20}

Further evaluation is needed to reveal other vascular abnormalities. Many authors performed conventional magnetic resonance angiography, CTA, or digital subtraction angiography (DSA).^{1,2,3,4,21,24} However, clinically, even if IVH is confirmed on the initial CT scan, diagnostic angiography would not be performed in patients whose mortality is expected to be very high because of their general condition or in those with a poor level of consciousness. However, if possible, diagnostic angiography should be performed to confirm vascular lesions that cause bleeding and to prevent the risk of recurrence. In our institute, CTA is performed in case of isolated IVH as a routine evaluation.

CTA is non-invasive and requires minimal additional time and cost, and it is associated with a lower complication rate than DSA.²⁵ The overall sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, negative predictive value and accuracy of CTA were 89%, 92%, 91%, 91% and 91%, respectively.²⁵ Nevertheless, two of four dural arteriovenous fistulas were missed by CTA examination.²⁵ In case of spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage other than SAH, it is necessary

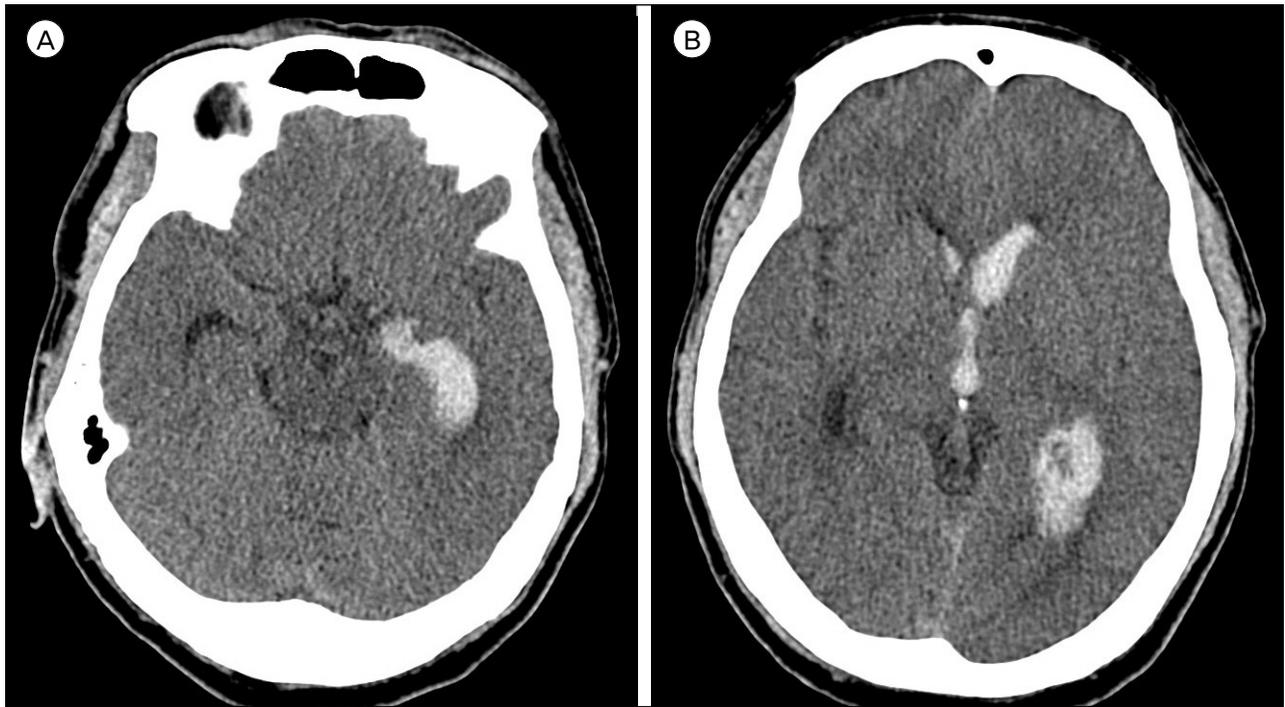


Fig. 1. The initially checked non-contrast-enhance computed tomography scans. A: The hemorrhage is expanded through the foramen Monro to the contralateral anterior horn of the lateral and third ventricles. B: No definite subarachnoid hemorrhage is observed on the initial computed tomography scan.

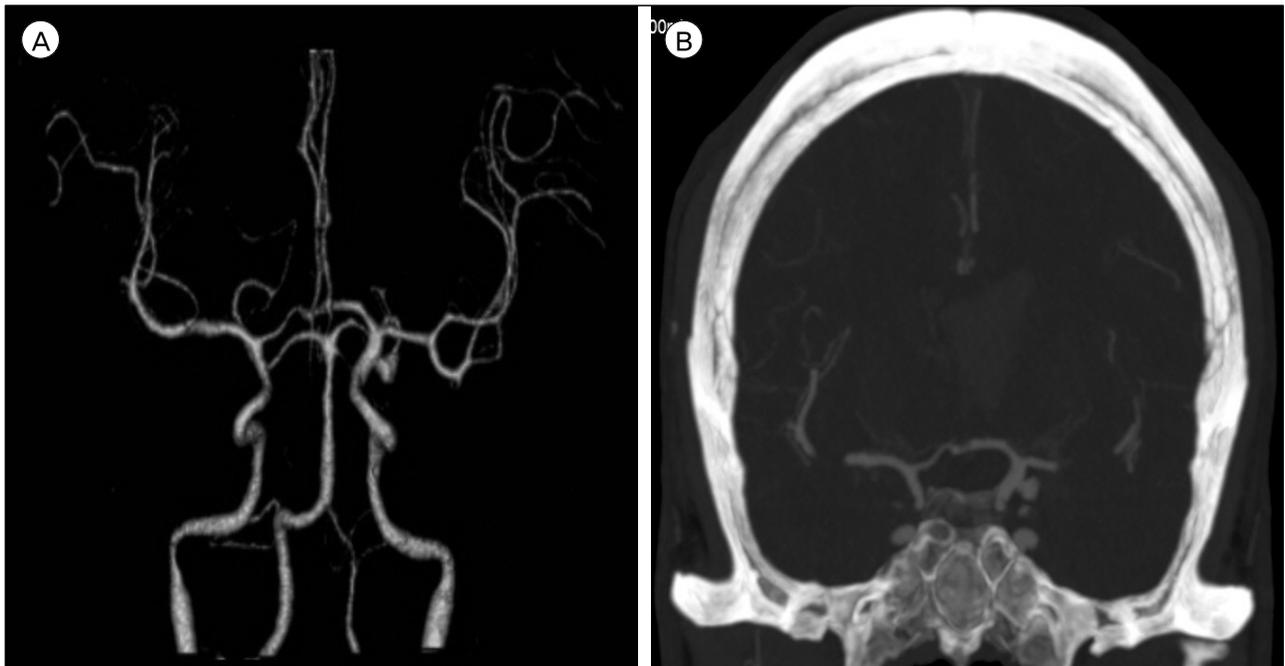


Fig. 2. Computed tomography angiography is performed for the differential diagnosis. A: Three-dimensional reconstruction image shows the aneurysm in left distal internal carotid artery. B: Computed tomography angiogram of the coronal section.

to perform further evaluation for the differential diagnosis of vascular lesion and a sequential treatment



Fig. 3. Conventional cerebral angiogram clearly showing the aneurysm arising from the left anterior choroidal artery. A: Digital subtraction angiogram in the lateral view showing the left internal carotid artery. B and C: Three-dimensional reconstruction images showing the aneurysm more precisely.

procedure.

If IVH causes secondary obstructive hydrocephalus, EVD is recommended to facilitate blood clot washout, and CSF diversion is suggested to control the intracranial pressure (ICP).¹⁾ Other studies reported that a sharp increase in blood pressure and sharp decrease in ICP can induce rebleeding.^{17,22)} Voldby and Enevoldsen proposed avoidance of CSF drainage until

steady-state ICP was achieved to prevent recurrent hemorrhage.²²⁾ Therefore, if there is no significant neurological damage, CSF drainage should be considered after resolving the risk of rebleeding. Additionally, endovascular treatment can be performed sequentially after diagnostic angiography. Thus, the endovascular procedure is worthwhile treatment option in case of solitary IVH caused by aneurysmal rupture because it



Fig. 4. A: Preoperative digital subtraction angiogram shows the endovascular catheter tip being advanced at the aneurysmal neck. B: Postoperative digital subtraction angiogram shows successful endovascular embolization and no emboli in distal blood flows.

requires a simple, sequential process after angiographic diagnosis compared to open surgery, and it can save time for the serial CSF diversion procedure. In our case, we performed coil embolization for ruptured cerebral aneurysm, which had a time-saving benefit and seemed to contribute to the patient’s good prognosis.

CONCLUSIONS

In cases of primary IVH, CTA seems worthwhile for making a differential diagnosis, although the possibility of IVH due to cerebral aneurysmal rupture is very low. Endovascular treatment is another good option for primary IVH without SAH due to ruptured cerebral aneurysm.

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Disclosure of Interest

The authors report no conflict of interest.

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