



가 가 .

Smart prep 3T (TR: 5.2, TE: 1.1, FA: 20, 3.8 thickness, EC: 1)

65 ( : =31:34, : 61.6 )

(83%) (26 /54 , 48%)

(95%) (28 /54 , 52%)가 (39 /54 , 72%)가 (35 /62 , 56%)가

(27 /62 , 44%) (43 /62 , 69%)가 가 44 /65 (68%) 21 /65 (32%)

44 4 가

4 가 가

(2-5), (6-

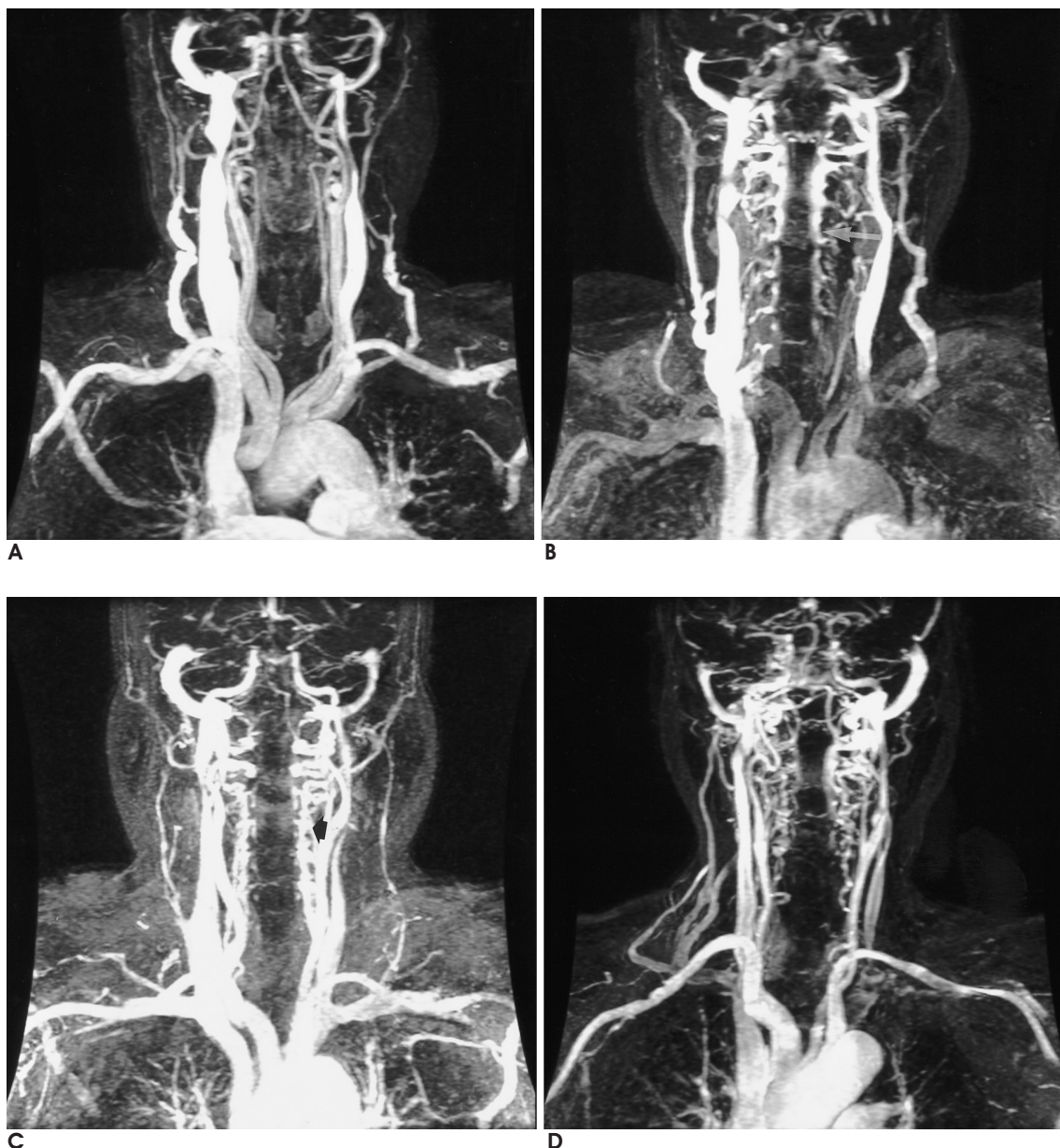
, S 가 (1). 9). 가

(MRA)

가

31 , 34 32  
82 61.6  
MRA 3 T (Genesis, GE Medical  
System, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A.)  
MRA 3 D - TOF  
TR/TE (msec)= 5.2/1.1, flip  
angle 20 °, scan thickness 3.8 mm, slice/ slab 20  
Smart prep  
MRA  
25

(maximum intensity projection, MIP)  
18 360  
MIP  
20 MIP 64  
(vertebral venous system,  
VVS)  
(vertebral venous plexus, VVP)  
(vertebral artery venous plexus, VAVP)



**Fig. 1.** Main drainage pattern of the vertebral venous system.

- A.** Poor: On MR angiography, the vertebral venous system is not seen, but the vertebral venous plexus is seen on the source image  
**B.** VVP dominant: The vertebral venous plexus (arrow), epidural venous plexus, within the bony spinal canal is well visualized. The VAVP is faintly visualized.  
**C.** VAVP dominant: In comparison with Fig. 2B, the venous plexus surrounding the vertebral artery (arrow) is well visualized.  
**D.** Mixed: The VVP and The VAVP are equally well visualized.

가 72% (39 ), 가 28% (15 )  
 VAVP 95% (62 /65 )  
 62  
 Poor, VVP domi - 가 56% (35 ), 가 44% (27 )  
 nant, VAVP dominant, Mixed (VVP + VAVP) 가  
 , Poor MIP 69% (43 ), 가 31% (19 )  
 , VVP dominant VVS VVP가  
 , VAVP dominant VVS VAVP가  
 , Mixed VVP VAVP가  
 가  
 가

가 72% (39 ), 가 28% (15 )  
 VAVP 95% (62 /65 )  
 62  
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 nant, VAVP dominant, Mixed (VVP + VAVP) 가  
 , Poor MIP 69% (43 ), 가 31% (19 )  
 , VVP dominant VVS VVP가  
 , VAVP dominant VVS VAVP가  
 , Mixed VVP VAVP가  
 가  
 가  
 가 94% (61 )  
 가 32% (21 ), 가

**Table 2.** Main Venous Drainage and Main Drainage Pattern of VVS

Main venous drainage	Main drainage pattern of VVS
IJV (63/65, 97%)	Poor (14/65, 21%) VVP dominant (11/65, 17%)
VVS (2/65, 3%)	VAVP dominant (18/65, 28%) Mixed pattern (22/65, 34%)

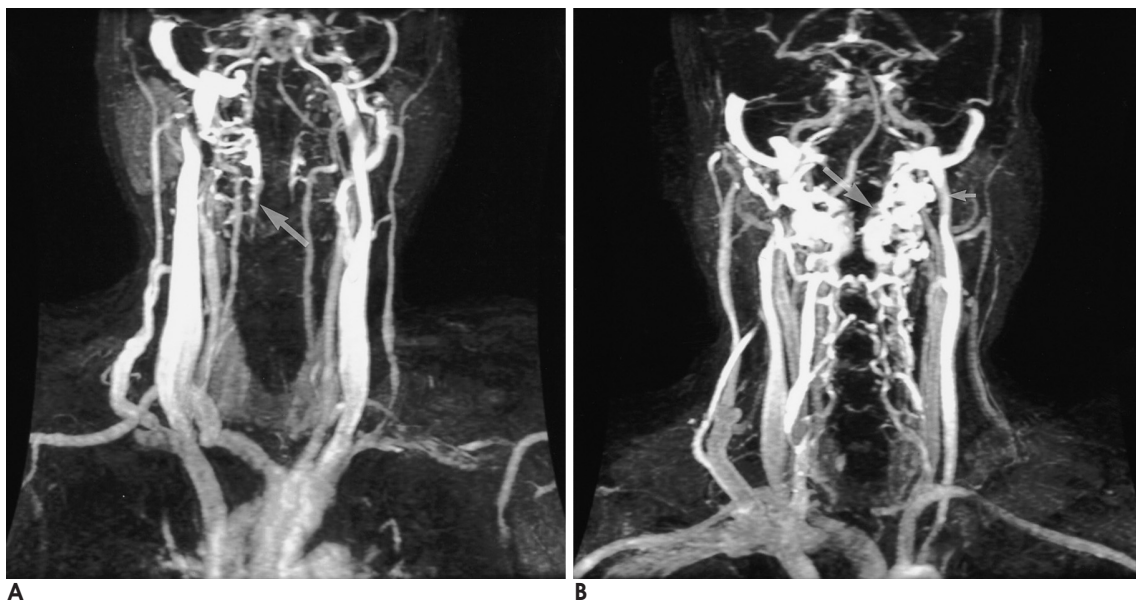
VVS: Vertebral venous system, VVP: Vertebral venous plexus  
 VAVP: Vertebral artery venous plexus, IJV: Internal jugular vein

(Table 1) VVP 83% (54 /65 )  
 54  
 가 48% (26 ), 가  
 52% (28 )

**Table 1.** Extent and Appearance of the Vertebral Venous System and the Internal Jugular Vein

		%	Extent		Appearance	
			Partial	Complete	Symmetry	Asymmetry
VVS	VVP	54/65 (83%)	26/54 (48%)	28/54 (52%)	39/54 (72%)	15/54 (28%)
	VAVP	62/65 (95%)	35/62 (56%)	27/62 (44%)	43/62 (69%)	19/62 (31%)
IJV		65/65 (100%)	4/65 (6%)	61/65 (94%)	21/65 (32%)	44/65 (68%)

VVS: Vertebral venous system, VVP: Vertebral venous plexus, VAVP: Vertebral artery venous plexus, IJV: Internal jugular vein



**Fig. 2.** Main cerebral venous drainage.

**A.** There reveals main cerebral venous drainage through the internal jugular vein. The vertebral venous plexus (arrow) is faintly visible.

**B.** The vertebral venous system (large arrow) is more prominent, as compared with the internal jugular vein (small arrow).

68%(44 ) .

Poor가 21%(14 ), VVP dominant가 17%(11 ), VAVP dominant가 28% (18 ), mixed 34%(22 ) (Fig. 1).

(Table 2) (63 ) , 2 가 (10). (epidural vein)

(Table 3) 가 (internal VVP) (external VVP)

가 22%(14 ), 11%(7 ) , 가 40% (26 Arnautovic (10) 2 VVP

가 27%(18 ) 가 가 12%(8 ), 가 15%(10 ) 44 4 Bock 1828 - 32 Breschet , 1823 Batson (8)

가 (Fig. 3).



**Fig. 3.** There reveals partial non-visualization of the left internal jugular vein (arrows) and well developed the ipsilateral vertebral venous system.

가

가 ,

(4, 11).

(6 - 9).

가 MRA

25%

88%

, Gelber (12) 1 - 3 mm , 가 4 mm 70

(13) corrosion internal VVP VAVP가

**Table 3.** Relationship between Internal Jugular Vein and Vertebral Venous System

		Vertebral venous system	
		Symmetrical	Asymmetrical
Internal jugular vein	Symmetrical 21/65 (32%)	14/65 (22%)	7/65 (11%)
	Asymmetrical 44/65 (68%)	26/65 (40%)	Contralateral 8/65 (12%) Ipsilateral 10/65 (15%)

VAVP  
 95% (62 / 65 ) , VVP 83% (54 / 65 )  
 corrosion  
 Gelber (12)  
 .  
 가  
 81% (12, 14),  
 C1 가 3%, C2 - C3  
 가 63%, C4 - C5 가 15%  
 C6 - C7 19%  
 (12). VAVP  
 가 56%,  
 가 44% , VVP  
 가 48%, 가  
 52%  
 가  
 (15)  
 30%  
 , 2  
 가  
 가  
 , Marfan syndrome,  
 , , ,  
 (16 - 20).  
 가  
 , 가  
 가  
 .  
 , mixed (34%), VAVP  
 dominant (28%), poor (21%), VVP dominant (17%)  
 .  
 가  
 ,  
 (5).  
 가  
 가  
 (21 - 23).

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## Analysis of the Vertebral Venous System in Relation to Cerebral Venous Drainage on MR Angiography<sup>1</sup>

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**Purpose:** In the supine position, cerebral venous drainage occurs primarily through the internal jugular veins, as seen on venous phase cerebral angiography. However, in the erect position, the vertebral venous system represents the major alternative pathway of cerebral venous drainage, while outflow through the internal jugular veins is absent or negligible. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the vertebral venous system and its relationship between the surrounding venous structures using magnetic resonance angiography (MRA) in the case of subjects in the supine position.

**Materials and Methods:** We retrospectively reviewed the results of 65 patients (M:F = 31:34, mean age: 61.6 years) who underwent multi-phase contrast-enhanced carotid MRA. The imaging studies were performed using a 3.0 T MR unit (TR: 5.2, TE: 1.1, FA: 20, 3.8 thickness, EC: 1). We analyzed the appearance and extent of the vertebral venous system (vertebral venous plexus and vertebral artery venous plexus) and the internal jugular vein on the venous phase images. We also evaluated the main drainage pattern of the cerebral venous drainage and the drainage pattern of the vertebral venous system. The visualized vertebral venous system was defined as either poor, vertebral venous plexus dominant, vertebral artery venous plexus dominant or mixed.

**Results:** In the vertebral venous system, the vertebral artery venous plexus was visualized in 54 cases (83%). The appearance of the visualized vertebral artery venous plexus was symmetrical in 39 cases (72%) and asymmetrical in 15 cases (28%). The extent of the visualized vertebral artery venous plexus was partial in 26 cases (48%) and complete in 28 cases (52%). The vertebral venous plexus was visualized in 62 cases (95%). The appearance of the visualized vertebral artery venous plexus was symmetrical in 43 cases (69%) and asymmetrical in 19 cases (31%). The extent of the visualized vertebral artery venous plexus was partial in 35 cases (56%) and complete in 27 cases (44%). The appearance of the visualized internal jugular vein was asymmetrical in 44 cases (68%) and symmetrical in 21 cases (32%). Of these 44 asymmetrical cases, 4 demonstrated partial non-visualization of the internal jugular vein. In these 4 cases, the ipsilateral vertebral venous system was well visualized. The main cerebral venous drainage occurred through the internal jugular vein in 62 cases (97%) and the vertebral venous system in 2 cases (3%). The drainage pattern of the vertebral venous system was poor in 14 cases (21%), vertebral venous plexus dominant in 11 cases (17%), vertebral artery venous plexus dominant in 18 cases (28%) and mixed in 22 cases (34%).

**Conclusion:** In the supine position, the vertebral venous system was well visualized. The vertebral venous system represented an alternative collateral pathway of the internal jugular vein in cerebral venous drainage. It may be that the vertebral venous system is used, or conversely the internal jugular vein, depending on the position of the subject.

**Index words :** Magnetic resonance (MR), vascular studies  
Venography  
Spine