



가 : 1

2 . . . 3

(MR angiography, MRA)

: MRA 210

CT (CT angiography, CTA)

(digital subtraction angiography, DSA) 가

: 210 28 CTA DSA 가 (n=9,

: 7, : 2) (n=5) (78.6%)

3 mm (n=3) (n=14), (n=6), (n=3),

: MRA 가 가 MRA

가

(MR angiography, MRA) 가 가

(74 - 98%) (1, 4). MRA 가

가

(1). MRA

CT (CT angiography,

CTA) (2).

MRA

CTA (digital subtraction angiography, DSA) 210

(3). MRA

가

가 2001 1 2006 8

가 (,) MRA

가 “ ” 가

가

CTA DSA

2 . MRA CTA DSA

1

2

3

: 가
 irregularity), (post-stenotic dilatation),
 (unknown cause) .
 (Fig. 1),
 (duplication) (Fig. 2)
 (axial) Willis (axial source) (fenestration)
 (Maximum intensity projection, (atherosclerotic change)
 (vertical axis) (transverse axis) 9-12°
 180° MIP 가
 210 가 CTA DSA 가 MRA 가
 가 CTA DSA 가
 (MIP
 가 가
 (pitfall) 가 가 210 171 DSA, 45 CTA
 가 가 6 . 28 (13.3%) 가
 MRA 가 10 , 18 가 가
 59.2 . 21 3D CTA , 5
 (PACS system) DSA 2 .
 3 mm , 3-5 MRA 가 3 mm 22
 mm, 5 mm (78.6%) , 3-5 mm 5 (17.9%), 5 mm
 가 1 (3.6%)가 .
 (junctional dilatation), (vascular tortuosity), 가 (MCA
 (normal variation), (luminal bifurcation)가 7 가 5 ,

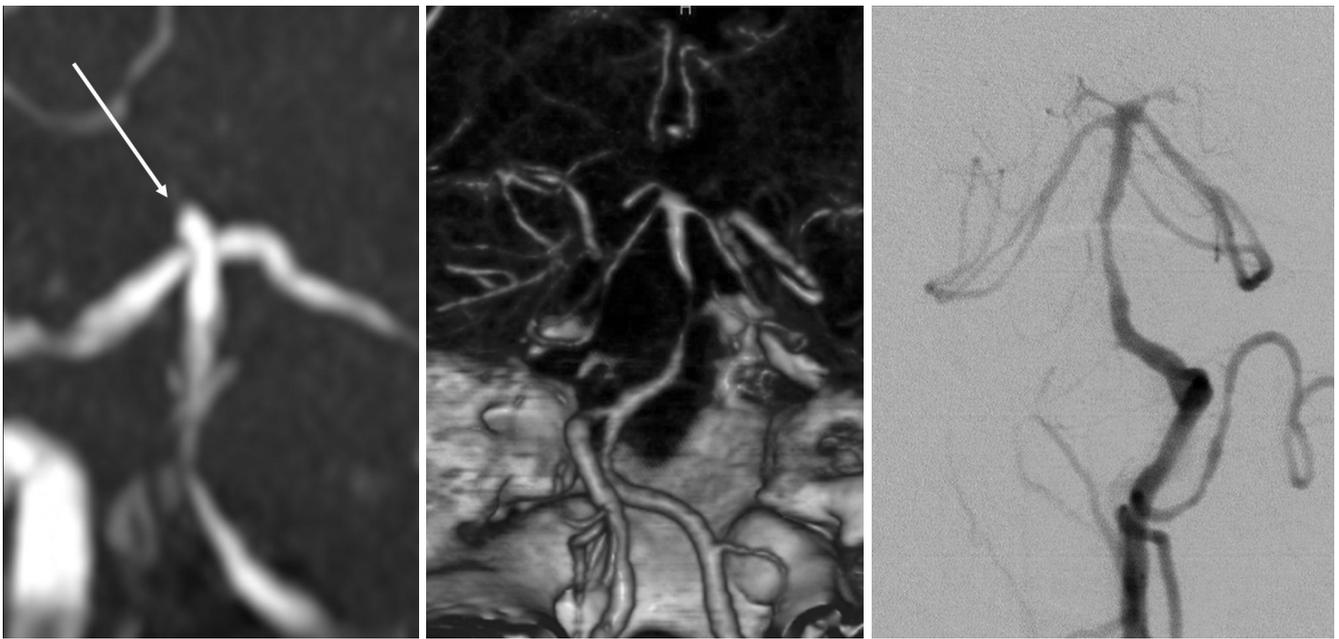


Fig. 1. False-positive aneurysm of the top of the basilar artery in a 51-year-old man. A saccular aneurysm (arrow) is seen at the top of the basilar artery on Time-of-flight MR angiography (A). CT angiography (B) demonstrates junctional dilatation at that region. Right vertebral angiogram (C) also shows junctional dilatation.

가

2.1%, 3.4% 2.8% 42%, 21%,

가 가 가 가

(4). 7 mm 가 , 가 가

0.5% White (5) (78.6%) 3 mm

가 가 가 MRA 가 MRA

MRA (spatial resolution)

90% (6) 3.0T MRI 가 가

가 (7). 3 mm . 3.0T MR 가 가

Philip (6) 38% 가 (9) 가

MRA 가 17.9%, 11.8% 3.0T MR ,

(1, 5). 가 (10).

14.3% Horikoshi (8) 4518 (4/7) (2/7)

(general population) (3/5), (2/5)

Table 2. Causes of False-positive Intracranial Aneurysms on MRA

Cause	Number	Common Location	Percent (%)
Junctional Dilatation	14	AcoA:3, MCA:4, PcoA:3, others:4	50
Vascular Tortuosity			
Vascular Coiling	2	PICA:1, MCA bifurcation:1	7.1
Simple Tortuosity	2	ICA:1, trigeminal:1	7.1
Overlapped Bifurcation	2	MCA bifurcation:2	7.1
Normal Variation	3	AcoA:2, ACA:1	10.7
Unknown Cause	3	Basilar:1, SCA:1, PICA:1	10.7
Luminal Irregularity	1	ICA:1	3.6
Post-stenotic Dilatation	1	MCA trunk:1	3.6
Total	28	28	100

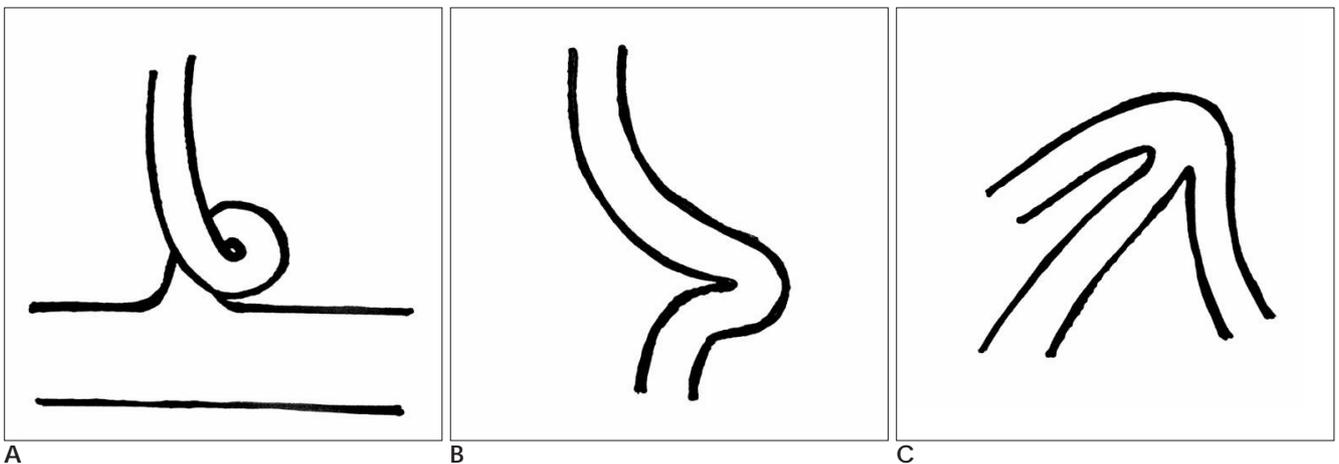


Fig. 3. Classification of vascular tortuosity. (A) Vascular coiling is that branching vessels are twisted and rolled, forming into round shape. (B) Simple tortuosity is defined as overlapping of twisted vessels, making an acute angle. (C) When the bifurcation of middle cerebral artery angle is larger than 180 degree, it looks like arrow shape. We classified it into overlapped bifurcation.

(2/3)가 (3/3) , 가 가 가 (3).
가 가 MRA 가
(DSA, CTA)
가 MRA 가
가 2
MRA 가
DSA CTA
DSA 가 가 MIP
, CTA 가 가

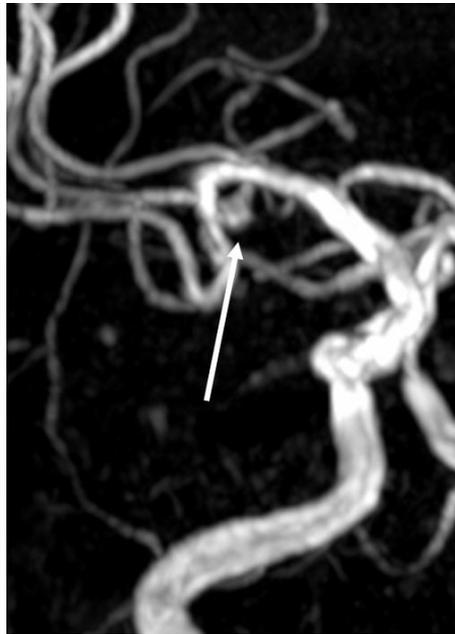
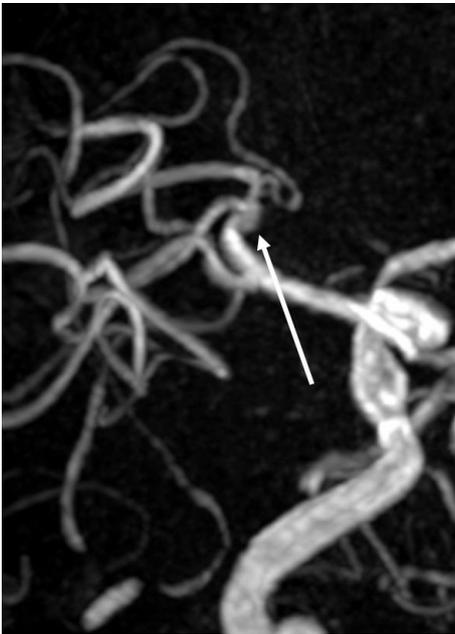
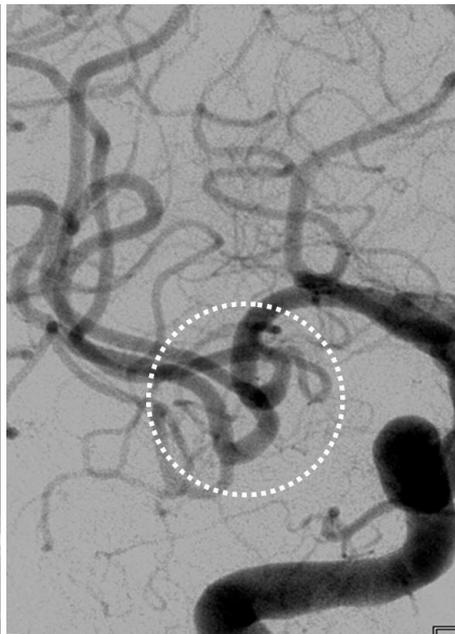
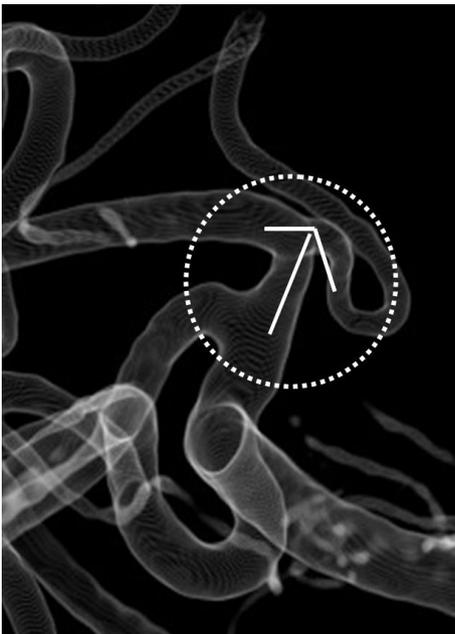


Fig. 4. False positive aneurysm of the middle cerebral artery (MCA) bifurcation in 68-year-old woman. A small aneurysm (arrows) is seen at the right MCA M2 segment bifurcation area on MR angiography (A, B). On selective angiography of right carotid artery (C, D), vascular angle of right MCA M2 segment bifurcation area is over 180 degree and overlapped. It looks like arrow shape (in circles).



mm
 FOV
 subvolume

(Fig. 5). , 3

MIP
 가

, 2
 가

FOV

3

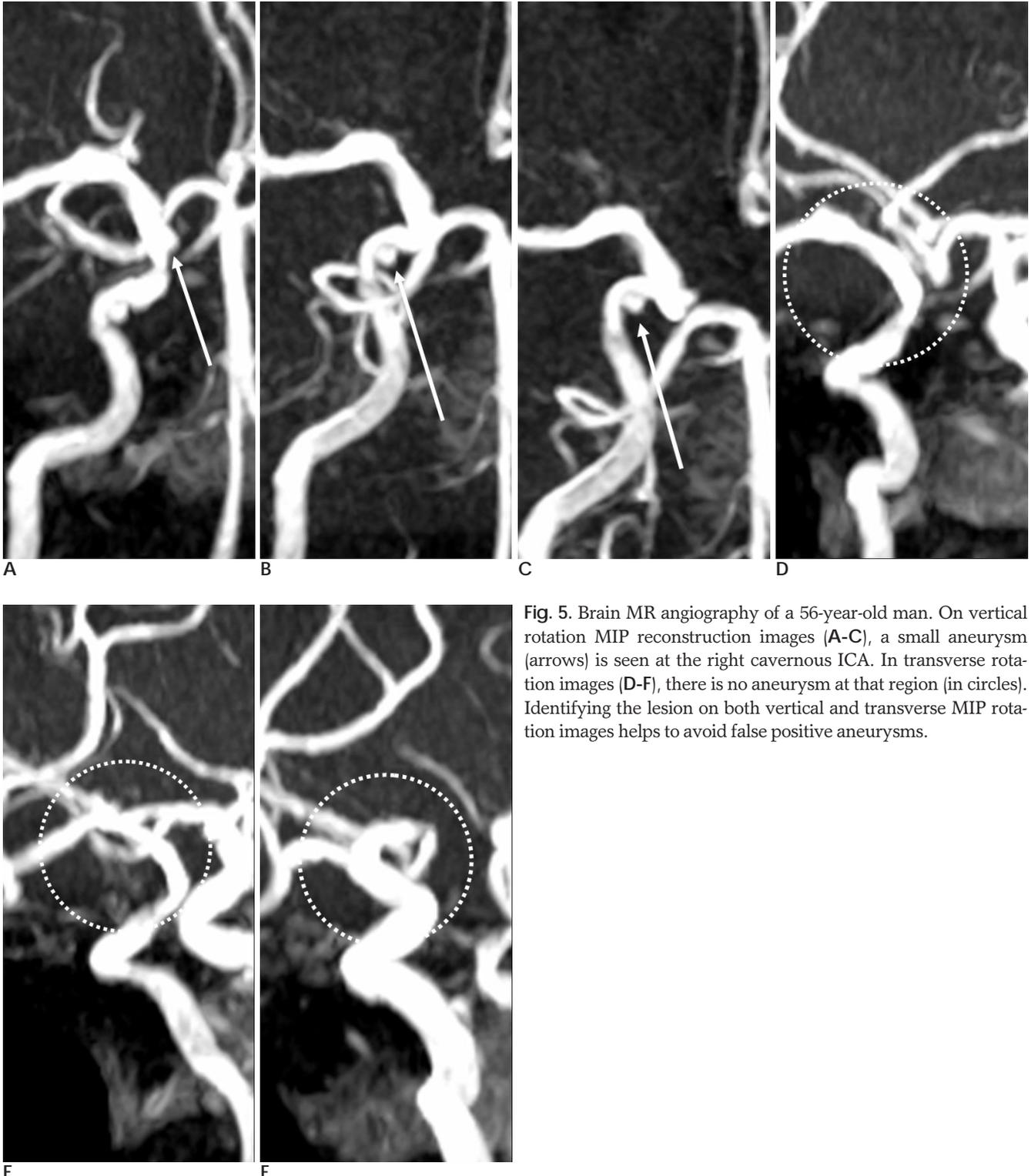


Fig. 5. Brain MR angiography of a 56-year-old man. On vertical rotation MIP reconstruction images (A-C), a small aneurysm (arrows) is seen at the right cavernous ICA. In transverse rotation images (D-F), there is no aneurysm at that region (in circles). Identifying the lesion on both vertical and transverse MIP rotation images helps to avoid false positive aneurysms.

(volume rendering, VR) 가
 (threshold value)
 MIP
 (11). Mallouhi (12) MRA
 MIP VR MRA
 Isoda (13) (in vitro) MRA
 TOF MRA
 MRA (scan time)
 가 가
 (14).
 (gold standard) DSA MRA
 CTA
 3D DSA가
 CTA
 (15). Villablanca (16) CTA가
 DSA 가 가
 가
 CTA 가
 CTA DSA 가
 (17), MRA
 가
 가
 가 (bias) 가
 가
 (1, 4)
 가
 MRA 가
 가 3 mm 가
 가 가
 가
 MRA 가
 MRA 가

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J Korean Radiol Soc 2007;57:307 - 314

False-positive Intracranial Aneurysms on MR Angiography: Incidence and Causes¹

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Purpose: The purpose of this study is to analyze the incidence and causes of false-positive intracranial aneurysms on MR angiography (MRA).

Materials and Methods: We retrospectively evaluated 210 cases that were incidentally diagnosed as intracranial aneurysms on MRA. All the cases were confirmed by CT angiography (CTA) or digital subtraction angiography (DSA). We investigated the incidence, location, size, and causes of the false-positive aneurysms on MRA.

Results: Of 210 cases, 28 cases were confirmed as false-positive aneurysms. Most of the lesions were located on the middle cerebral artery ($n = 9$, 7 lesions located in the bifurcation and 2 lesions located in the trunk) and the anterior communicating artery ($n = 5$). The diameters of most of the lesions (78.6%) were smaller than 3 mm. Causes were junctional dilatation ($n = 14$), vascular tortuosity ($n = 6$), normal variation ($n = 3$) and unknown causes ($n = 3$).

Conclusion: Understanding the risks and pitfalls of false-positive intracranial aneurysms determined on MRA would be helpful for improving the diagnostic accuracy of screening MRA and for reducing the number of unnecessary invasive examinations.

Index words : Intracranial aneurysm
False positive reactions
Magnetic resonance angiography

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