Clinical and imaging features of vestibular migraine patients in Neurology Department

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Objectives: To summarize the clinical and imaging characteristics on cranial MRI of patients with vestibular migraine(VM) in hospital and outpatient in Neurology Department, Navy General Hospital.

Methods: Collection of 292 patients with diagnostic criteria for VM. Clinical features were evaluated according to illness history, chief complaint, clinical symptom and signs. 203 cases received cranial MRI with T1-WI, T2-WI, Flair examinations.

Results: The mean consultation age of VM was 46.2 yrs old[from 15 yrs to 76 yrs]. The ratio of male to female patients was 1:1.61[male 112 cases, female 180 cases]. The onset order of occurrence with vertigo or migraine was not fixed. Types of vertigo and duration time were various. The main manifestations of VM were repeatedly spontaneous vertigo, vomiting, some with photophobia or phonophobia. When head position changes during onset, vertigo is aggravated, but there is no fixed direction. Duration of syndrome was average more than one hour. 4 patients did not have headache symptom during the whole course. 288(98.6%) patients had headache history, and 187(64.0%) patients had a history of familial migraine. Some clinical syndromes changed in the form of migraine with age, i e ,. Vertigo when young, migraine in middle age, vertigo or dizziness in old age. Brain MRI showed a number of small dots long T2 or FLAIR signals in bilateral semiovale and subcortex (131 of 203 cases, 64.5%), some like lacunar lesion, but the others smaller than lacunar infarction.

Conclusion: VM is one of the most common causes of vertigo. It is mainly manifested by paroxysmal vertigo, vomiting and migraine. A small number of VM patients with rare special performance, easy to be misdiagnosed and missed diagnosis. More than 60% VM patients with cranial MRI showed lacunar or lacunar like lesions.

Keywords: vertigo；migraine；vestibular migraine

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