Extracranial Venous Stenosis is an Unlikely Cause of Multiple Sclerosis


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Abstract

Background: Recently, extracranial venous stenosis (EVS) was implicated as the primary cause of Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

Methods: In this study, we aimed to investigate the presence of EVS in MS patients.

Results: EVS was present in 720 MS patients and 1231 patients with MS-like disease, with a highly significant difference (p<0.001). Only 27/42 patients (all in the MS group) had venous stenoses, while the rest had only 1 vessel involved. EVS was seen in 1/13 compared to 1/182 RRMS patients of less than 5 years duration. Disease duration was greater in patients with EVS overall (p<0.001). LAO remained an independent predictor of EVS while adjusting for gender, age at disease onset and EDSS. In MS-Like patients, EVS was more common in patients with ≥7 and without ≥2 MS had similar EDSS and disease duration, suggesting similar disease activity.

Conclusion: EVS is not likely to be a cause of MS. It is most likely to be a late secondary phenomenon.