

MEETING ABSTRACT

Open Access

EHMTI-0271. Refractory chronic daily headache and idiopathic intracranial hypertension: preliminary results of a prospective study

V Favoni^{1*}, F Toni², M Messia², C La Morgia¹, R Terlizzi¹, G Giannini¹, M Leonardi², P Cortelli¹, S Cevoli³, G Pierangeli¹

From 4th European Headache and Migraine Trust International Congress: EHMTIC 2014 Copenhagen, Denmark. 18-21 September 2014

Background

Recent evidences suggest an association between unresponsive chronic daily headache (CDH) and idiopathic intracranial hypertension without papilledema (IIHWOP). Diagnosis can be challenging. The CSF opening pressure (OP) cutoff value greater than 200 or 250 mmH₂O is debated as the role of transverse sinus stenosis (TSS).

Aim

To investigate the frequency of IIHWOP and TSS in adult patients with refractory CDH.

Methods

In a prospective study, patients with refractory CDH were consecutively enrolled. Each participant underwent ophthalmologic evaluation and Optical Coherence Tomography to rule out the presence of papilledema; cerebral MR venography (MRV) to detect TSS; and a lumbar puncture in the lateral decubitus position to measure OP.

Results

Among the 23 consecutive patients enrolled, 19 (13 F, 6 M; mean age 47.9 ± 12.3 ; mean BMI 26.1 ± 4.8) completed the study, 4 female patients dropped out. None of the 19 patients had papilledema. We found a TSS in 11 of 19 cases (58%): bilateral in 3 patients and unilateral in 8 cases. All of 19 cases displayed OP lower than 250 mmH₂O (range 102-245) and normal CSF composition. We found a OP greater than 200 mmH₂O only in four patients (1M, 3 F) (17%): two of them achieved an

improvement of headache intensity and frequency after 12-18 ml CSF withdrawal; one of them had bilateral TSS.

Conclusions

Our preliminary data suggest that IIHOWP may be an underestimated condition. We suggest to keep the 200 mm H₂O cutoff value at least until the role of venous stenosis will be clarified.

No conflict of interest.

Authors' details

¹Department of Biomedical and NeuroMotor Sciences (DIBINEM) Alma Mater Studiorum-University of Bologna, IRCCS Scienze Neurologiche, Bologna, Italy.

²Neuroradiology Department, IRCCS Scienze Neurologiche, Bologna, Italy.

³IRCCS Scienze Neurologiche, IRCCS Scienze Neurologiche, Bologna, Italy.

Published: 18 September 2014

doi:10.1186/1129-2377-15-S1-D19

Cite this article as: Favoni et al.: EHMTI-0271. Refractory chronic daily headache and idiopathic intracranial hypertension: preliminary results of a prospective study. *The Journal of Headache and Pain* 2014 **15**(Suppl 1):D19.

¹Department of Biomedical and NeuroMotor Sciences (DIBINEM) Alma Mater Studiorum-University of Bologna, IRCCS Scienze Neurologiche, Bologna, Italy
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article