

Extradural cervical spine hematoma after thrombolysis therapy: a case report.

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INTRODUCTION:

Extradural spinal cord hematoma, also known as an epidural hematoma, is an uncommon condition due to bleeding into the extradural space. We presented an unusual case of extradural cervical spine hematoma following thrombolytic therapy for myocardial infarction.

REPORT:

A 67-year-old male with underlying diabetes mellitus, hypertension, a transient ischaemic attack, and chronic kidney disease complained of intense back pain over the thoracic area one day following successful thrombolytic therapy for anterolateral myocardial infarction. The pain was 8/10 and was slightly relieved by intravenous morphine. On day two post thrombolytic therapy, he developed right sided body weakness with muscle power of 4/5 in both the right upper and lower limbs. Emergency CT brain only showed multifocal small infarctions of varying ages and no acute intracranial haemorrhage. After 3 days, despite unresolved thoracic back pain, his neurological deficit worsened with a complete loss of muscle power over bilateral lower limbs and the right upper limb. Otherwise, the bulbocavernous reflex was still present, as were perianal and deep anal sensations and anal tone. An MRI of the cervical spine was then performed, which revealed an acute C4-C7 cervical epidural hematoma with cord compression and edoema. This patient was posted for an emergency C5 laminotomy and had about 5 cm³ of hematoma evacuated. Postoperatively, the neurological deficit is not much improved, with the patient still having tetraplegia. He was monitored in the intensive care unit but developed multiple complications, including worsening renal function, ventilator-associated pneumonia, and poor Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) recovery and finally succumbed to death about 1 month post operation.

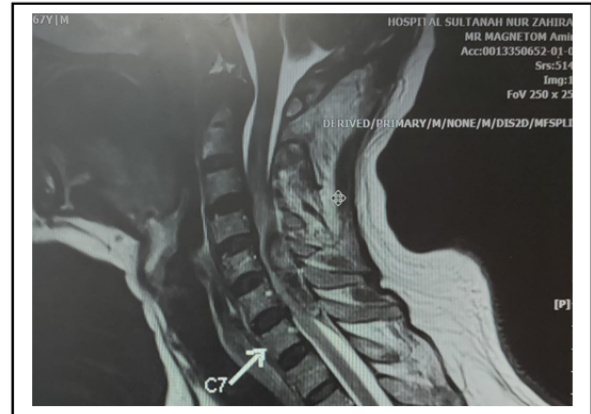


Figure 1: MRI image showed C4-C7 cervical epidural hematoma

CONCLUSION:

The extradural spinal hematoma is a very rare complication following thrombolytic therapy, but one that must not be overlooked.

REFERENCES:

1. Alderman DB. Extradural spinal-cord hematoma: report of a case due to dicumarol and review of the literature. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 1956 Nov 1;255(18):839-42.