



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

Manuscript NO: 77051

Title: Neck pain and absence of cranial nerve symptom are clues of cervical myelopathy mimicking stroke: two case reports and literature review

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06250974

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor, Instructor, Lecturer, Staff Physician, Teacher

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Thailand

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-04-13

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-04-13 07:44

Reviewer performed review: 2022-04-14 16:49

Review time: 1 Day and 9 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Thank you for the opportunity to review this work. This manuscript is a case report presented with two patients with cervical myelopathy. There is an interesting topic due to cervical myelopathy being a potential stroke mimic at initial evaluation in the emergency department and leading to administration of an intravenous rt-PA that deteriorates the patient with spinal epidural hematoma. Detailed comments about this case report are as follows: -1 Title. Does the title reflect the main subject/hypothesis of the manuscript? Yes -2 Abstract. Does the abstract summarize and reflect the work described in the manuscript? Yes. However, please provide the full term of this abbreviation in the Core tip: "SSEH." -3 Key words. Do the key words reflect the focus of the manuscript? Maybe. However, a keyword could not be found in the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) (available from <https://meshb.nlm.nih.gov>): "cervical myelopathy," "stroke mimics," "cranial nerve symptom," "cervical spine metastases." Changing to the appropriate term might be suitable. -4 Background. Does the manuscript adequately describe the background, present status and significance of the study? Please provide the full term of this abbreviation, "rt-PA," in the first place found in the main text. Because the first place is "Cervical myelopathy may mimic stroke when it present with hemiparesis, in which intravenous rt-PA would be catastrophic" without mentioning the full term of this abbreviation. -5 Methods. Does the manuscript describe methods (e.g., experiments, data analysis, surveys, and clinical trials, etc.) in adequate detail? Not applicable. -6 Results. Are the research objectives achieved by the experiments used in this study? Yes -7 Discussion. Does the manuscript interpret the findings adequately and appropriately, highlighting the key points



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concisely, clearly and logically? -In discussion, the authors mentioned that "The first patient was diagnosed as spontaneous spinal epidural hematoma (SSEH). The causes of SSEH include coagulopathy, drugs, spinal puncture, trauma, and pregnancy" from the previous literature. To provide more information from case 1 in this manuscript, please discuss the potential cause of the spinal epidural hematoma in this case 1. -Although cervical myelopathy is a potential stroke mimic, please discuss and provide the other clues to differentiate this condition from the stroke other than neck pain and absence of cranial nerve symptom, such as the potential risk factors, onset, clinical course, previous symptoms, and signs of cancer, trauma, coagulopathy from drug or herbal use, etc. -8 Illustrations and tables. Are the figures, diagrams and tables sufficient, good quality and appropriately illustrative of the paper contents? -Maybe. There is an asymmetry in the axial plane of the brain CT scan in Figure 2A. Because there is the asymmetry in orbit between right and left in this axial plane, it seems the uncorrected axial plane of the brain CT scan. Meanwhile, the authors stated that "CT found no abnormalities in the brain." So, please provide the new image of the tilt-corrected axial plane. -To complete the patients' clinical course, please provide the column of patient outcomes for each literature in Table 1. -9 Biostatistics. Does the manuscript meet the requirements of biostatistics? Not applicable. -10 Units. Does the manuscript meet the requirements of use of SI units? Yes -11 References. Does the manuscript cite appropriately the latest, important and authoritative references in the introduction and discussion sections? There is an incorrect DOI of Reference 51. In the manuscript, the authors stated the Reference 51 that "Marinella MA, Barsan WG. Spontaneously resolving cervical epidural hematoma presenting with hemiparesis. *Ann Emerg Med* 1996; 27:514-517 [PMID: 8604873 DOI: 10.1016/S0196-0644(96)70245-7]." However, "DOI: 10.1016/S0196-0644(96)70245-7" direct to the URL "https://www.annemergmed.com/article/S0196-0644(96)70245-7/fulltext" of the article



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entitled: "Preeruptive Cerebellar Ataxia in Varicella." Please recheck the DOI of this reference. On the other hand, PMID 8604873 is corrected. -12 Quality of manuscript organization and presentation. Is the manuscript well, concisely and coherently organized and presented? Yes -13 Research methods and reporting. Authors should have prepared their manuscripts according to manuscript type and the appropriate categories, as follows: (1) CARE Checklist (2013) - Case report; (2) CONSORT 2010 Statement - Clinical Trials study, Prospective study, Randomized Controlled trial, Randomized Clinical trial; (3) PRISMA 2009 Checklist - Evidence-Based Medicine, Systematic review, Meta-Analysis; (4) STROBE Statement - Case Control study, Observational study, Retrospective Cohort study; and (5) The ARRIVE Guidelines - Basic study. Did the author prepare the manuscript according to the appropriate research methods and reporting? -The CARE checklist mentions the "strengths and limitations in your approach to this case." Therefore, please state the strengths and limitations of the approach to this case in the manuscript in the discussion section. -14 Ethics statements. For all manuscripts involving human studies and/or animal experiments, author(s) must submit the related formal ethics documents that were reviewed and approved by their local ethical review committee. Did the manuscript meet the requirements of ethics? No. Please provide the ethics declarations.



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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05504262

Position: Associate Editor

Academic degree: DA, DNB, MBBS, MNAMS

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Indonesia

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-04-13

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-05-27 16:30

Reviewer performed review: 2022-05-27 16:34

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

very well written and discussed case series



RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

Manuscript NO: 77051

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Reviewer's code: 06250974

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor, Instructor, Lecturer, Staff Physician, Teacher

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Thailand

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-04-13

Reviewer chosen by: Yu-Lu Chen

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-06-30 17:13

Reviewer performed review: 2022-06-30 17:36

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors have modified the text following the reviewers' suggestions; therefore, I have now no further comment. I think the manuscript deserves publication in this final version. The authors had a hard time modifying it to meet many requirements. Thank you for the opportunity to review a good topic.