Chronic Subdural Hematoma, Caused by Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation and/or Anticoagulation Therapy, after COVID-19

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Abstract

Chronic subdural hematoma (CSDH) typically develops in the supratentorial region in elderly patients. We treated a case of unilateral supratentorial and bilateral infratentorial CSDH, whereby the patient had a coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection combined with disseminated intravascular coagulation 2 months earlier. The patient had not experienced any head trauma before the onset of the CSDH. The postoperative course was uneventful, and the patient experienced no neurological deficit. We propose that we should be aware not only of acute ischemic or hemorrhagic diseases after COVID-19 infection but also of chronic subdural hematoma caused by coagulopathy after a COVID-19 infection.

Keywords: supratentorial and infratentorial chronic subdural hematoma, COVID-19, disseminated intravascular coagulation, anticoagulation therapy

Introduction

Chronic subdural hematoma (CSDH) usually develops in the supratentorial region in elderly patients. Infratentorial CSDH is rare in adults.1-3 We treated a case of unilateral supratentorial and bilateral infratentorial adult CSDH, whereby the patient had been infected with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) 2 months earlier. A COVID-19 infection has been shown to induce acute ischemic stroke and intracranial hemorrhage due to coagulation disorders.4,5 For the first time, we report supratentorial and infratentorial CSDH due to disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) after a COVID-19 infection. We present the clinical course of our case and discuss a review of the literature.

Case Report

A 70-year-old female patient without head trauma had a high fever on day X. She was admitted to our hospital on day X + 15 due to respiratory distress resulting from a COVID-19 infection. She showed no neurological deficit, but a blood exam revealed DIC (Table 1). She was treated with remdesivir, dexamethasone, and heparin. Her symptoms and DIC were cured, and she was transferred to another hospital on day X + 28. The patient was discharged from the hospital on day X + 44. On day X + 55, she felt a headache that slowly increased in intensity. There had been no head trauma during the entire period of treatment. On day X + 62, her condition deteriorated and her right forehead was bruising. She was transferred to our emergency department with a disturbance of consciousness (Glasgow Coma Scale 8) with quadriplegia and with total aphasia. A blood examination did not reveal any coagulation disorder (Table 1). Computed tomography (CT) showed a right supratentorial CSDH and bilateral infratentorial CSDH (Fig. 1A, B). Evacuation and drainage of the supratentorial CSDH were done with a single burr hole under local anesthesia. The hematoma membrane was thickened, and its color was dark. She regained consciousness and had no neurological disturbance on the day after the surgery. CT and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed a reduction of the right supratentorial CSDH, no change in the infratentorial CSDH, and no upper hernia-
Table 1  Blood exam score after COVID-19 infection

|                      | After COVID-19 infection: | X + 18 days | X + 28 days | X + 62 days (Surgery for CSDH) |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
|                      | X + 15 days               |             |             |                                |
| PT (s)               | 68                        | 75          | 11.9        | 11.4                           |
| PT-INR               | 1.26                      | 1.18        | 1.05        | 0.98                           |
| APTT (s)             | 47.7                      | 36.5        | 38.6        | 29                             |
| Fibrinogen (mg/dL)   | 434                       | 371         | 358         | NA                             |
| D-dimer (μg/dL)      | 14.1                      | 39.4        | 8.6         | NA                             |
| Platelet (/μL)       | $10.1 \times 10^4$        | $7.6 \times 10^4$ | $4.1 \times 10^4$ | $16.3 \times 10^4$ |

APTT: activated partial thromboplastin time, CSDH: chronic subdural hematoma, NA: not applicable, PT: prothrombin time, PT-INR: prothrombin time–international normalized ratio

Fig. 1  Computed tomography image of the present case.
A, B: Image on the day of surgery; C, D: Image on the day after surgery. Arrows 1 and 2 show subdural hematoma in the right supratentorial and bilateral infratentorial regions. Arrow 3 shows the hematoma at the rostral surface of the tentorium. Arrows 4, 5, and 6 show a decrease in the subdural hematoma in the right supratentorial region, and the subdural hematoma in the infratentorial region has not increased. Arrow 7 shows that a hematoma at the rostral surface of the tentorial region has not increased.
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Fig. 2  Magnetic resonance image of the present case.
A, B: Image on the day after surgery; C, D: Image 1 week after surgery; E, F: Image 1 month after surgery.
Arrows 1 and 2 show that the hematoma in the supratentorial and infratentorial regions has not increased. Arrows 3 and 4 show that a subdural hematoma in the supratentorial and infratentorial regions has decreased. Arrows 5 and 6 show that the subdural hematoma in the supratentorial and infratentorial regions is cured.

Discussion
This is the first case report that reveals supratentorial...
and infratentorial CSDH after a COVID-19 infection and an absence of head trauma.

We discovered several cases of unilateral or bilateral supratentorial CSDH after a COVID-19 infection (Table 2). Panciani PP et al. reported relatively poor outcomes for five cases of CSDH that were also being treated for COVID-19 and which included thrombocytopenia and/or anticoagulation therapy. Our case here presented CSDH after COVID-19 was cured; there have been no previous reports of CSDH after cure of a COVID-19 infection. The incidence of general hemorrhage after cure of a COVID-19 infection has been reported to be 0.7%-2.9%. Another report described DIC complicated with a COVID-19 infection as inducing significant general bleedings. We speculate that our present CSDH was produced by DIC complicated with a COVID-19 infection and/or anticoagulation therapy.

We know that CSDH of the posterior fossa is rare in an adult, especially in the supratentorial and infratentorial regions (Table 3). Those CSDH cases were caused by bleeding from the venous sinus due to trauma, anticoagulation therapy, or thrombocytopenia. Our case was complicated by DIC and received antithrombotic therapy and was therefore compatible with previous reports.

COVID-19 infection sometimes induces arterial and venous thrombosis along with an abnormality of coagulation markers and thrombosis. DIC has been shown to develop in 2% of patients with COVID-19, and thrombocytopenia, in 10.3% of patients with COVID-19. The International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis thus recommends using heparin for COVID-19-infected patients with coagulopathy. However, ischemic stroke has also been shown to develop in 1.2% of patients with COVID-19. We assume that more and more people who are treated with anticoagulation therapy, especially with COVID-19, will be diagnosed with CSDH without head trauma.

To conclude, we propose that we should be aware of not only acute ischemic disease and acute bleeding diseases

### Table 2 Summary of supratentorial CSDH after COVID-19 infection

| No | Age | Gender | Side | Symptom | Onset of CSDH after COVID-19 infection | Thrombocytopenia | Antithrombotic therapy | Surgery | Outcome | Reference |
|----|-----|--------|------|---------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| 1  | 82  | M      | Lt   | Unknown | Unknown                              | No              | Yes                   | Burr hole surgery | Death   | 6)        |
| 2  | 86  | M      | Blt  | Unknown | Unknown                              | No              | No                    | MMA embolization | Death   |           |
| 3  | 77  | M      | Rt   | Unknown | Unknown                              | Yes             | No                    | Craniotomy        | Death   |           |
| 4  | 85  | M      | Lt   | Unknown | Unknown                              | Yes             | Yes                   | Burr hole surgery | Death   |           |
| 5  | 78  | M      | Lt   | Consciousness disturbance | Unknown | No | Yes | No | Good |
| 6  | 70  | F      | Blt  | Consciousness disturbance | 48th day | Yes | Yes | Burr hole surgery | Good | Present case |

Blt: bilateral; F: female; Lt: light; M: male; MMA: middle meningeal artery; Rt: right

### Table 3 Summary of supra- and infratentorial CSDH

| No | Age | Gender | Side | Symptom | Antithrombotic therapy | Treatment of supratentorial hematoma | Treatment of infratentorial hematoma | Outcome | Reference |
|----|-----|--------|------|---------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| 1  | 64  | M      | Lt   | Headache, Vomiting | Yes | Conservative | Suboccipital craniotomy | Good | 3)        |
| 2  | 86  | M      | Rt   | Consciousness disturbance, Tetraparesis | Yes | Conservative | Burr hole surgery | Good | 10)       |
| 3  | 74  | M      | Rt   | Somnolence | Yes | Burr hole surgery | Burr hole surgery | Good | 11)       |
| 4  | 72  | F      | Lt   | Left hemiparesis, Gait disturbance | Yes | Burr hole surgery | Conservative | Good | 12)       |
| 5  | 70  | M      | Blt  | Right hemiparesis | No | Burr hole surgery | Conservative | Good |           |
| 6  | 70  | F      | Lt   | Consciousness disturbance | Yes | Burr hole surgery | Conservative | Good | Present case |

Blt: bilateral, F: female, Lt: light, M: male, Rt: right
but also CSDH after a COVID-19 infection treated with anticoagulation therapy, especially in the presence of DIC.

**Abbreviation List**

CSDH: chronic subdural hematoma  
CT: computed tomography  
DIC: disseminated intravascular coagulation  
ISTH: International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis  
MRI: magnetic resonance imaging

**Conflicts of Interest Disclosure**

The authors report that there are no competing interests to declare.

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