T2*-Weighted MR Images of a Patient with Familial Cerebral Cavernous Malformation

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A 58-year-old man presented with left foot numbness. Subsequent neurological evaluation revealed multiple cavernous malformations within the cerebrum, cerebellum, brainstem, and thoracic spinal cord. His son had suffered from cerebellar hemorrhage at the age of 15, when he was diagnosed as having cavernous malformation. Our patient was diagnosed as having familial cerebral cavernous malformation showing autosomal dominant inheritance. Large lesions were treated with a gamma knife.

T2*-weighted magnetic resonance imaging (Picture A) revealed numerous hypointense lesions indicating microhemorrhages from cavernous malformations compared with conventional T2-weighted imaging (Picture B). The usefulness of T2*-weighted magnetic resonance imaging for detection of familial cerebral cavernous malformations has been reported previously (1, 2). T2*-weighted imaging was superior to the conventional T2-weighted imaging in the detection of lesion number and distribution.

References

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