Thoracic Cavernous Malformations on T2*-weighted MR Images

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Key words: familial cavernous malformation, T2*, MRI, spinal cord

(Inter Med 47: 1073-1074, 2008)
(DOI: 10.2169/internalmedicine.47.1069)

1.5 Tesla T2*-weighted MR imaging of the thoracic cord of a 59-year-old patient with familial cavernous malformation (1) revealed hypointense lesions (Picture 1, left arrowhead), two of which were obscure on T2-weighted image (T2WI) (Picture 1, right). Cavernous malformation at the level of Th9 was localized over the right spinothalamic tract,
explaining the decreased superficial sensation of his left leg (Picture 2, left; T2*, right; T2WI). T2*-weighted MR imaging was useful in detecting microhemorrhage or deoxyhemoglobin and also satisfactory in spatial resolution in the spinal cord (2) as well as in the brain. Although 1.5 Tesla MRI is sufficient for clinical use, 3.0 Tesla is more appropriate in the sensitivity for detecting microhemorrhage (3).

References

