Pure Sensory Stroke due to Pontine Tegmentum Infarction

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Picture 1.

A 58-year-old woman noticed numbness of her right face, neck, arm, trunk and leg following a brief nap. On admission, her blood pressure was 208/102 mmHg. Neurological examination was unremarkable except for a slightly decreased vibration sensation in the right leg. No hypesthesia to pain or temperature was shown. Diffusion-weighted MR imaging showed acute infarction in the left pontine tegmentum involving the medial lemniscus (Picture 1). Somatosensory evoked potentials to right median nerve stimulation showed a decreased N 20 amplitude. Pure sensory stroke (PSS), a manifestation of lacunar syndrome, is commonly caused by thalamic infarct. However, pons lesions have been associated with PSS (1). In a study involving 150 patients with isolated pontine infarction, tegmental infarction was

observed in 18 patients, 6 of whom showed sensory disturbances (2). Given the minimal neurological deficit and the small lesion on MRI in this patient, we emphasize the need for an awareness of this clinical entity.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

References

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