A Case of Fenestrated Anterior Cerebral Artery with an Associated Aneurysm*1

Tetsuji INAGAWA1, Tetsuji TAKEDA1, Haruyoshi TAGUCHI1, and Tohru YAMADA2

1) Department of Neurosurgery, Shimane Prefectural Central Hospital, 116 Imaichi-cho, Izumo, Shimane 693, Japan
2) Department of Neurosurgery, Hiroshima University School of Medicine, Hiroshima 734, Japan

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ABSTRACT

Fenestration of the anterior cerebral artery is rare. The authors describe a case of an aneurysm arising from the proximal end of a fenestration of the anterior cerebral artery demonstrated by angiography.

INTRODUCTION

Fenestration of the vertebrobasilar artery is well known, and recently aneurysms of fenestrated basilar artery are also being reported1, 4, 5, 9. However, aneurysm of the fenestrated anterior cerebral artery is a very rare finding, and only 1 such case found on autopsy has been reported in the literature1. The purpose of this paper is to present the angiographic demonstration of a case with aneurysm at an anterior cerebral artery fenestration.

CASE REPORT

A 70-year old female experienced a sudden onset of severe headache and vomiting, followed by consciousness disturbance, and was admitted to a local hospital on March 4, 1982. The next day, she was transferred to the Shimane Prefectural Central Hospital under the diagnosis of a subarachnoidal hemorrhage.

On admission the patient was slightly disoriented and her neck was stiff. Computed tomography (CT) revealed hydrocephalus and a high density area in the left insular cistern, but there were no findings in the suprasellar cistern (Fig. 1). Left carotid angiography disclosed the presence of aneurysms of the fenestrated anterior cerebral artery and the middle cerebral artery (Fig. 2). On the basis of the CT findings, it was considered that the aneurysm of the middle cerebral artery had ruptured, but the anterior cerebral artery had not. With the exception of megadolicobasilar anomaly, there were no other vascular deformities or

*1 戦川哲二，武田哲二，田口治義，山田 正：前大脳動脈窩形成に発生した動脈瘤の1例
abnormalities. As the patient had such complications as cardiac insufficiency, diabetes and obesity, surgery was not performed and she was transferred to another hospital on April 30, 1982. The patient continues to receive symptomatic treatment at the other hospital.

DISCUSSION

Fenestration of the anterior cerebral artery is a rare condition being reported in only 0.1–7.2% of autopsy cases. The angiographic demonstration of this anomaly (all in the horizontal segment) is even more rare, with only 8 cases having been reported throughout the world. Aneurysms on the fenestration of cerebral arteries, not only the anterior cerebral artery, but on other cerebral arteries as well, is a very rare finding, and only 6 cases have been reported so far. Of these 6, 1 was an aneurysm on the anterior cerebral artery, while the other 5 were aneurysms on the fenestrations of basilar arteries, and all of the aneurysms had arisen from the proximal end of the fenestration.
Aneurysm of Anterior Cerebral Artery Fenestration

155

Fenestration is considered to be an incomplete fusion of the precursor vascular network\(^\text{10}\) of the anterior cerebral artery due to unknown reasons, but the true developmental mechanism is yet unknown\(^\text{9}\). Crompton\(^\text{1}\) noted an aneurysm at the proximal end of a fenestration of the cerebral artery and reported histological examination revealed defect of the media at the proximal end of fenestrations in not only the anterior cerebral artery, but also in the middle cerebral artery and basilar artery as well. Most congenital saccular aneurysms arise at the site of arterial branching where a media defect is found\(^\text{10}\). Therefore, the mechanism involved in the development of aneurysms in the proximal end of a fenestration, is considered to closely resemble that of the saccular aneurysm from the histological\(^\text{2}\) and hemodynamic\(^\text{3}\) points of view.

To our knowledge, the case presented here is the first angiographic demonstration of a saccular aneurysm arising from the fenestration of the anterior cerebral artery.

REFERENCES