Author’s response to reviews

Title: High-Resolution Magnetic Resonance Imaging Findings of Basilar Artery Plaque in a Patient with Branch Atheromatous Disease: a case report

Authors:

Yosuke Miyaji (mmmyosuke@yahoo.co.jp)
Yuichi Kawabata (y-kawabat@hotmail.co.jp)
Hideto Joki (joki@sannet.ne.jp)
Shunsuke Seki (s-seki@yokohamasakae.jp)
Kentaro Mori (k-mori@yokohamasakae.jp)
Tomoya Kamide (t-kamide@yokohamasakae.jp)
Akira Tamase (a-tamase@yokohamasakae.jp)
Motohiro Nomura (m-nomura@yokohamasakae.jp)
Yoshihisa Kitamura (y-kitamura@yokohamasakae.jp)
Fumiaki Tanaka (ftanaka@yokohama-cu.ac.jp)

Version: 3
Date: 10 September 2014

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Author's response to reviews

Title: High-Resolution Magnetic Resonance Imaging Findings of Basilar Artery Plaque in a Patient with Branch Atheromatous Disease: a case report

Authors:
Yosuke Miyaji (mmmyosuke@yahoo.co.jp)
Yuichi Kawabata (y-kawabat@hotmail.co.jp)
Hideto Joki (joki@sannet.ne.jp)
Shunsuke Seki (s-seki@yokohamasakae.jp)
Kentaro Mori (k-mori@yokohamasakae.jp)
Tomoya Kamide (t-kamide@yokohamasakae.jp)
Akira Tamase (a-tamase@yokohamasakae.jp)
Motohiro Nomura (m-nomura@yokohamasakae.jp)
Yoshihisa Kitamura (y-kitamura@yokohamasakae.jp)
Fumiaki Tanaka (ftanaka@yokohama-cu.ac.jp)

Version: 1 Date: 10 September 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
We would greatly appreciate your review and thoughtful comments for our manuscript. We have revised the manuscript in accordance with the suggestions.

Reviewer: Bernhard Schaller
Comments to authors:
The authors present an excellent and unique case report. I have nothing to add.

Thank you for reviewing and commenting for our manuscript.

Reviewer: Ken Johkura
Comments to authors:
The authors’ showed branch atheromatous plaque in the basilar artery together with involved penetrating artery in a pontine infarct patient on high-resolution MR imaging. Although MR images of intracranial artery plaques have already been reported, the presented image is valuable because it demonstrates occluded small artery together.

Thank you for reviewing and commenting for our manuscript.

Major points:
The slice orientation should be added to the MR images.
Axial image showing basilar artery wall plaque encroaching the orifice of the paramedian pontine artery should better be presented.

We added the information of the slice orientations in the figure legends for the limited space of the images.

As the reviewer indicates, the CUBE T1 axial image now appears as new Figure 1C. It demonstrates the positional relationship between the wall plaque of basilar artery and the orifice of the paramedian pontine artery.

The manuscript is too long for the amount of information provided. It suffers from much repetition and could be shortened.

We deleted the overlapped descriptions in the introduction and the discussion sections in order to make the manuscript more compact. In addition, the sentence “Although 7-Tesla MRI may depict lenticulostriate arteries [5], imaging of the penetrating artery using 3-Tesla MRI is still uncommon.”
Minor points:
Discussion
The basilar artery plaque with the orifice of the involved perforating artery has already been reported (ref. 4). So, strictly speaking, this report is not the first report to demonstrate the relative position of atherosclerotic plaque between the major and penetrating artery. This sentence should be better rewritten with toning down.

In this study we employed the 3D MR images (Cube T1 and 3D-FIESTA) and they demonstrated the position of the plaque in relation to the penetrating artery more clearly than the conventional MR images used in ref. 4. The sentence in the conclusion section of the abstract has been changed as follows: “This is the first report to confirm the pathological basis of branch atheromatous disease by three-dimensional images using the new modalities of 3-Tesla magnetic resonance imaging.”