

Do Balloon and Stent-Assisted Endovascular Techniques Pose an Additional Risk for Hemorrhagic Complications After Ventriculostomy Placement?

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Introduction

Concerns have arisen regarding the potential hemorrhagic risks of intraprocedural anticoagulation with unfractionated heparin for balloon and stent-assisted procedures and periprocedural dual antiplatelet therapy for stent-assisted cases for patients having undergone recent placement of external ventriculostomy.

Methods

This is a retrospective review of patients presenting to a single academic center. All patients underwent EVD placement via twistdrill burrhole within 24 hours of embolization. Individuals underwent CT scan of the head after drain placement and prior to catheterization as well as another within 48 hours of embolization. Post procedure CT scans were reviewed for new or worsened track hemorrhages. Charts were reviewed to identify use of balloon or stent-assisted techniques and those undergoing primary coiling. Additionally, chart reviews identified the presence of new neurologic morbidity attributed to track hemorrhages. Chi-squared tests were used to evaluate outcomes.

Results

One hundred seven patients from 7/2005-4/2014 underwent EVD placement prior to coiling of the associated aneurysm. Ninety-one of these individuals met inclusion criteria (N=91; 85%). Mean age was 55.2 yrs. 64 patients were female (70.3%) and 63 were Caucasian (69.25). 19 patients underwent balloon or stentassisted procedures (21%; 3 = stent/16 = balloon). 1 patient in the balloon/stent group exhibited new/worse track hemorrhage vs 13 in the primary coil group (5.3% vs. 18.1%; p = 0.169) No new/worse track hemorrhage exhibited attributable neurologic morbidity. Further analysis showed that 11 patients in the stent/balloon group recieved intraprocedural anticoaqualtion with unfractionated heprin vs. 24 in the primary coil group (60% vs. 33%; p=0.05) and 4patients in the stent/balloon group recieved periprocedural antiplatelet medication vs. 8 in the primary coil group (21% vs 11%; p=0.25)

Conclusions

Balloon and stent-assisted techniques represent a reasonable treatment option for patients with ruptured aneurysms undergoing embolization following EVD placement for select patients in this limited study where zero patients exhibited new deficits from track hemorrhage. Additional randomized study is indicated.

Image 1

Example image showing right frontal intraparenchymal hemorrhage as complication of EVD placement

Learning Objectives

By the conclusion of this session participants should be able to 1) describe the relative overall risk of

- hemorrhage with EVD placement,
- 2) Compare the relative risk of hemorrhagic complications between primary coiling and adjunct treatments,
- 3) Apply knowledge of complication risks to clinical practice.

References

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