

REVERSIBLE AMAUROSIS FUGAX AND DYSPHASIA AS A RESULT OF THALAMIC TRANSIENT ISCHEMIC ATTACK

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Introduction

Thalamus is not simply a relay station. It is more a modulator of response rate, synchrony and firing mode of the neurons within brain regions. The thalamic nuclei related to visual perception are: lateral geniculate body, thalamic reticular nuclei and the pulvinar nuclei. Language disturbances can result from lesions in VL, VA, PL PM, dorsomedial and pulvinar nuclei of thalamic body.

Case study

Sixty four year old male patient comes to the emergency unit with two main rapidly developed complaints: loss of vision and difficulty in speaking. Ophthalmological examination did not identify any abnormality. The CT and MRI scan were characterized by great extent of small vessels ischemia, particularly localized in thalamus bilaterally, with a malative zone in left thalamic body. Other diagnostic exams were within normal range. After 2 hours of nadroparine administration the vision improved completely, while speaking more slowly.

Discussion

During neurological examination it seemed that the patient was not completely blind, but had a difficulty in describing correctly what he was looking at. Speaking, on the other hand, was slow with frequent pauses associated by inappropriateness of emotions and memory retrieval deficit.

Conclusion

A distortion in visual perception of both eyes from a transient blockage of vascular supply to one side of thalamus can lead to a suppression of both visual pathways or to a total shutdown. A presence of rich neurological symptomatology characterized by disturbances in vision and speaking, associated with memory and emotional disturbances indicate a presence of thalamic TIA.