“The seagull cry” in internal carotid artery dissection

Figure Brain MRI and transcranial color-coded sonography

(A) Axial T1-weighted fat-suppressed imaging documented left internal carotid artery near occlusion with subacute intramural hematoma in its prepetrous tract. (B) Microembolic signals. (C, D) Doppler spectral analysis shows mirror-image parallel strings (visual correlate of a musical murmur) with different setting of pulse repetition frequency.

A 47-year-old man with left Horner syndrome due to left internal carotid artery dissection (figure, A) underwent transcranial color-coded sonography. Microembolic signals were detected in the left middle cerebral artery (figure, B). Doppler spectral analysis of the left intracranial carotid bifurcation displayed mirror-image parallel strings (figure, C and D), and high-frequency “seagull cry” was audible (audio file on the *Neurology*® Web site at www.neurology.org).

Musical murmurs (MMs), also called seagull cry, are murmurs with a single frequency that sounds like a musical tone. The phenomenon results from harmonic covibrations of the vessel wall caused by increased blood flow velocity.¹ MMs have seldom been mentioned in cerebrovascular disease. The seagull cry in internal carotid artery dissection has not been observed to date.

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