Teaching *NeuroImages*: Microvascular decompression of the optic nerve

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Figure 1 MRI, axial T2-weighted image

Axial T2-weighted MRI shows internal carotid artery flow void in the same plane as the right optic nerve (arrow).

Vascular compression is a known cause of cranial nerve dysfunction in a variety of disease states including trigeminal neuralgia, hemifacial spasm, and hypoglossal neuralgia.^{1,2}

A 31-year-old man presented with progressive visual loss in the right eye, particularly of the temporal visual field. His workup revealed compression of the right optic nerve and chiasm by a dolichoectatic right internal carotid artery (figures 1 and 2). He was treated with microvascular decompression of the optic nerve through a right pterional craniotomy, and experienced improvement in his visual symptoms postoperatively.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Woodall: literature review, manuscript preparation. Dr. Alleyne: project supervision.

Figure 2 MRI, coronal T2-weighted image

Coronal T2-weighted MRI shows rostral displacement and flattening of the right optic nerve (arrow).

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DISCLOSURE

The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

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