An unexpected cause of orthostatic headache
Delayed postlaminectomy pseudomeningocele

A 41-year-old woman underwent a left L5-S1 hemilaminectomy 7 months prior to the onset of an acute postural headache. MRI brain revealed intracranial hypotension. Two empiric blood patches were unsuccessful. CT myelogram showed a large pseudomeningocele at the surgical site not noted on MRI lumbar spine obtained 2 months postoperatively. Facet instability post-mesial facetectomy likely caused a dural tear on resumption of normal activity. The headache resolved after pseudomeningocele closure. Postoperative pseudomeningocele formation is well-recognized, but acute orthostatic headache from delayed pseudomeningocele formation at a spinal surgical site has been only once previously described and should be considered.

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