

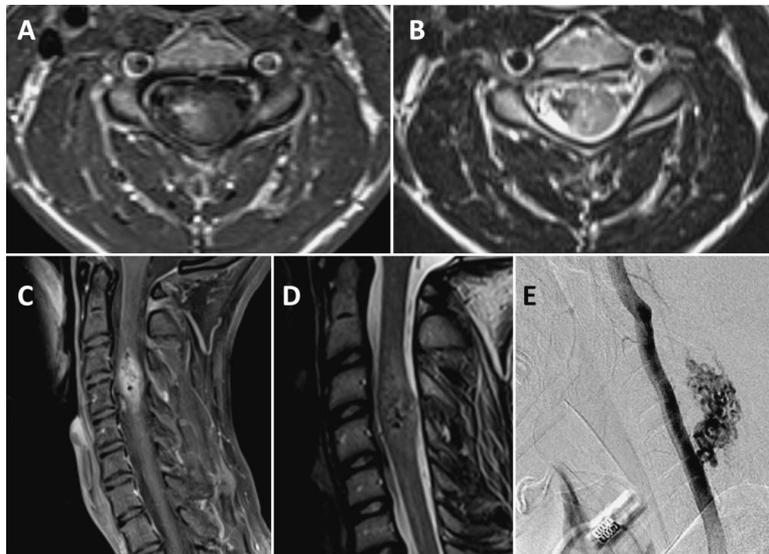
Teaching NeuroImages:

A pediatric patient with headache and neck stiffness

Adam R. Moeck, BS
Paola Pergami, MD, PhD

Correspondence to
Dr. Pergami:
ppergami@hsc.wvu.edu

Figure Radiographic findings



Cervical spine MRI demonstrates a glomus type intramedullary arteriovenous malformation. Multiple flow voids at the C3-C4 level involve the right hemicord. Axial (A) and sagittal (C) T1-weighted images, postgadolinium; axial (B) and sagittal (D) T2-weighted images. Angiography (E) shows compact nidus with single arterial feeder from the right vertebral artery.

A 14-year-old right-handed boy presented with sudden onset of severe headache and neck stiffness. Physical examination showed arm asymmetry with smaller size and muscle bulk (present since childhood) and increased deep tendon reflexes on the right, but normal strength. Brain CT and lumbar puncture ruled out subarachnoid hemorrhage or infection. MRI and angiography (figure) identified an unruptured type III spinal arteriovenous malformation at the C3-C4 level, supplied by the right vertebral artery.¹ Subtle physical examination findings can indicate underlying pathology and should not be overlooked in the proper context. Vascular studies should be considered for severe headache with negative initial workup.²

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Adam Moeck: drafting/revising the manuscript, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval. Paola Pergami: drafting/revising

the manuscript, study concept or design, analysis or interpretation of data, accepts responsibility for conduct of research and final approval, study supervision.

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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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