An anomalous developmental venous anomaly

Developmental venous anomalies (DVA) are congenital variants of cerebral veins, found incidentally at autopsy in 2.6% of the population, which are most often asymptomatic. Symptomatic compression of a cranial nerve by the collecting vein of a DVA is extremely rare, such as tinnitus from compression of the vestibulocochlear nerve.

A 51-year-old man presented with 1 week of intermittent vertigo and mild left-sided dysmetria. Imaging showed contact of the left vestibular nerve by the collecting vein of a cerebellar DVA (figures 1 and 2). We speculate that the symptoms were caused by transient migration of the cisternal segment of the collecting vein. Management was conservative with spontaneous resolution.

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REFERENCES

Figure 2 3D reconstruction of cerebellar developmental venous anomaly

3D reconstructed image shows the developmental venous anomaly and collecting vein (purple) and cranial nerves (yellow): trigeminal, black arrows; facial, white arrows; vestibulocochlear, hashed arrows.

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