Teaching NeuroImages: The half-split man

Makoto Takahashi, MD,
PhD
Akiko Shinya, MD
Hisao Kitazono, MD,
PhD
Teruhiko Sekiguchi, MD,
PhD
Akira Inaba, MD, PhD
Satoshi Orimo, MD, PhD

Correspondence to
Dr. Takahashi:
mt.awakenings@gmail.com

Figure 1 MRI and magnetic resonance angiography of the medulla and the vertebral artery

Diffusion-weighted and T2-weighted images show an acute infarction of the left lateral medulla (A, B). Magnetic resonance angiography and black-blood MRI show dissection of the left vertebral artery (C, D).

A 51-year-old man was admitted with left lateral medullary infarction due to vertebral artery dissection (figure 1). Neurologic examination revealed nystagmus, dissociated sensory disturbance, and no evidence of paralysis. Miosis and ptosis were observed on the ipsilateral side, but hypohidrosis was not apparent. Thermography revealed a bilateral discrepancy in body temperature, as if the patient were split down the middle (figure 2). Asymmetric skin temperature can occur among patients with Wallenberg syndrome associated with Horner syndrome due to a disturbance of the descending sympathetic tract that causes ipsilateral hypohidrosis and increased cutaneous blood flow.¹

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Takahashi: study concept, interpretation of data, and drafting the manuscript. Dr. Shinya: revision of the manuscript for intellectual content. Dr. Sekiguchi: study supervision. Dr. Kitazono: study supervision. Dr. Inaba: study supervision. Dr. Orimo: revision of the manuscript for intellectual content and study supervision.

STUDY FUNDING

No targeted funding reported.

DISCLOSURE

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

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Figure 2 Thermography findings

Thermography images show the bilateral discrepancy in body temperature (in °C), as though the patient were split down the middle of his body.

Neurology®

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Neurology 2016;87:e114-e115
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000003099

This information is current as of September 12, 2016

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