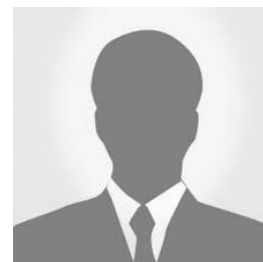


Possible etiology and pathogenesis of cervicogenic exophthalmos: case report

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Abstract

Purpose

To let other clinicians to know that unilateral exophthalmos also can be caused by cervical spondylosis.

Methods

We describe a 45-year-old female with unilateral exophthalmos caused by reflex sympathetic dystrophy and its unexpected spontaneous disappearance after a standard anterior cervical discectomy and fixation operation with two PEEK interbody cages and a plate.

Results

To our surprise, the patient's left unilateral exophthalmos disappeared spontaneously in the morning on postoperative day 2—with no relapse, without any further medication, as of 7 years. We have named this condition “cervicogenic exophthalmos.”

Conclusions

We would inform other clinicians that unilateral exophthalmos maybe caused by reflex sympathetic dystrophy related with cervicogenic spondylosis except inflammation, vascular disorder, infection, neoplasm, or metabolic disease. To the best of our knowledge, ours is the first related case report and use of the term “cervicogenic exophthalmos” after reviewing previous literature.

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Chi-Ming Wu is an orthopaedic doctor for about eighteen years and works in Jen-Ai Hospital, Taichung, Taiwan, presently. He also studies in the Department of Healthcare Administration, Asia University, Taiwan, ROC. I major in spinal surgery