Hot cross bun sign

Sir,

A 60-year-old man presented with progressive spasticity, limb ataxia, scanning speech and urinary incontinence of three years duration. On examination he had orthostatic hypotension (systolic fall of 22 mmHg and diastolic fall of 10 mmHg), bilateral cerebellar signs, brisk deep tendon jerks, bilateral extensor plantars and cogwheel rigidity. Patient was diagnosed as probable Multiple System Atrophy (MSA-cerebellar). Magnetic resonance imaging of the brain showed “hot cross bun” sign [Figures 1, 2]. The hot cross bun” sign is characterized by cruciform T2 signal hyperintensity within the pons and has been said to be specific although not pathognomonic for multiple system atrophy (MSA). Pontocerebellar degeneration results in lateral as well as longitudinal pontine fibers becoming evident as high signal on T2, manifesting as “hot cross bun” sign. There is significant correlation between atrophies of pontine base and existence of the cross sign in patients of multiple system atrophy. All patients with a smaller area of pontine base (two standard deviations below those of normal controls) have the cross sign.

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References


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Cerebellar hemorrhage following endoscopic third ventricular colloid cyst decompression

Sir,

Cerebellar hemorrhage following supratentorial surgery is a rare complication with only 29 cases reported. The exact mechanism of hemorrhage occurring in this region is not known; however, the blood may enter through the fourth ventricle and finally reach the cerebellum. One of the likely factors is the stretching and distortion of the inferior petrosal sinus. As in the current case, hemorrhage may appear in the folia of the cerebellar hemispheres near the border of the fourth ventricle. Usually, there are no clinical symptoms at the beginning of the condition and it often progresses to a life-threatening situation in patients who have not been treated appropriately. Thus, the observed neuroimaging findings might suggest a probable hemorrhage in the cerebellum.

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Figure 1: Axial T2-weighted MRI showing cross-shaped T2 signal hyperintensity within the pons (“hot cross bun” sign)

Figure 2: Axial T2-weighted MRI showing “hot cross bun” sign. Note also the dilatation of the fourth ventricle