ORIGINAL ARTICLES

ISCHEMIC STROKE AND INTRACEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE IN PATIENTS WITH COVID-19

Hamid Behzadnia1, Seyed Nasir Omrani1, Hadi Nozari-Golsafid1, Saeid Moslemi1, Babak Alijani1, Zohre Reyhanian2, Mehrnaz Kavian2, Tara Heydari3, Sasan Andalib1,2,4,5

1 Department of Neurosurgery, Pouraina Hospital, School of Medicine, Guilan University of Medical Sciences, Rasht, Iran
2 Amirkabir University of Technology, Tehran, Iran
3 Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Sciences, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
4 Neuroscience Research Center, Department of Neurosurgery, Pouraina Hospital, School of Medicine, Guilan University of Medical Sciences, Rasht, Iran
5 Department of Nuclear Medicine, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark
6 Research Unit of Clinical Physiogy and Nuclear Medicine, Department of Clinical Research, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark
7 BRIDGE-Brain Research-Inter-Disciplinary Guided Excellence, Department of Clinical Research, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark
8 Research Unit of Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, Psychiatry in the Region of Southern Denmark, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Patients with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) can exhibit neurological symptoms and diseases. A few studies have focused on cerebrovascular diseases in patients with COVID-19. In the present study, we assessed medical records of patients with COVID-19 with stroke.

Method and methods: Forty-seven COVID-19 patients with stroke were consecutively selected and reviewed. Medical records of the patients including information on age, gender, severity of pulmonary involvement (mild or non-involvement) in COVID, presence of ICH and ischemic stroke, localization of ICH, history of diabetes and hypertension were collected.

Results: Twenty-three COVID-19 patients (48%) had ICH and 24 COVID-19 patients (51%) had ischemic stroke. Sixteen COVID-19 patients with ICH (69.6%) had lobar hemorrhage and 7 COVID-19 patients with ICH (29.4%) had non-lobar hemorrhage (p = 0.023).

Conclusions: In this study, ICH and ischemic stroke were present at roughly the same rate in COVID-19 patients with stroke. Lobar hemorrhage was seen more frequently in COVID-19 patients with ICH. Brain and cerebrovascular imaging can be a helpful component of the work-up in COVID-19 patients.

Keywords: COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, intracerebral hemorrhage, ischemic stroke

INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus disease 2019, commonly referred to as COVID-19, stems from severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The disease was first introduced in December 2019 and spread throughout the world. The most common symptoms of the disease are fever, cough, shortness of breath and headache; however, COVID-19 has a range of neurological symptoms and diseases. For example, Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) [1], meningitis/encephalitis [2], seizures [3], acute disseminated encephalomyelitis [4], and leukoencephalopathy [5] have been reported in COVID-19 patients. Loss of smell (anosmia) and taste (ageusia) was also seen in patients with COVID-19 [6].

Corresponding author:
Sasan Andalib
E-mail: andalib@guums.ac.ir