



Letter to the Editor

Obstructive sleep apnea in patients with idiopathic normal-pressure hydrocephalus



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Dear Editor,

Roman et al. investigated the presence of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) in patients with idiopathic normal-pressure hydrocephalus (iNPH) [1]. About 90% of iNPH patients had OSA, and 80% of patients were moderate-to-severe OSA by sleep polysomnography. I have two queries about their study.

First, the authors cited a report by Kristensen et al., who presented high prevalence of sleep disordered breathing (SDB) including OSA in patients with iNPH [2]. They reported the effect of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) drainage and shunting procedure on the status of sleep disordered breathing. There was no significant correlation between respiratory disturbance index and CSF pressure, and neither lumbar CSF drainage nor shunting alleviated the respiratory disturbance index. About the latter result, Roman et al. also reported the same finding [1]. Kristensen et al. pointed out that sleep disordered breathing was a coexistent condition with iNPH [2], although there was a possibility of consequence of the hydrocephalus. Further prospective and interventional studies are required to know the association to speculate the causality.

Second, Magaldi et al. reported that there was a weak relationship among memory complaints including dementia, depression, anxiety disorder, OSA and NPH in elderly patients [3]. As the design was a cross-sectional study, progression of iNPH should be evaluated in combination with the changes of psychiatric and sleep conditions. Anyway, comprehensive analysis is needed to identify the association

between OSA and iNPH, as quite limited reports have been made.

Disclosure statement

The author has indicated no financial support.

Conflicts of interest

There is no conflict of interest in this study.

References

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