Title: Unilateral Internuclear Ophthalmoplegia after Minor Head Injur

Journal Issue:
Western Journal of Emergency Medicine: Integrating Emergency Care with Population Health, 13(1)

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Publication Date:
2012

Permalink:
http://escholarship.org/uc/item/6645h1b5

DOI:
https://doi.org/10.5811/westjem.2011.8.6595

Acknowledgements:
Dear Sir, We have pleasure in submitting a paper for "image in emergency medicine". We confirm the paper has not been submitted elsewhere. We look forward to hearing from you soon. With best wishes, Gurpreet Singh-Ranger

Keywords:
Internuclear ophthalmoplegia, head injury, medial longitudinal fasciculus, diplopia, Emergency Medicine, Neurology, Surgery

Local Identifier:
uciem_westjem_6595

Abstract:
Internuclear ophthalmoplegia is a rare condition caused by injury to the medial longitudinal fasciculus in the brainstem. It usually occurs in conditions such as stroke or multiple sclerosis and is extremely rare after head injury. We report a case of unilateral internuclear ophthalmoplegia, which occurred after a minor head injury in a young male. His only symptoms were headache and diplopia. He was treated conservatively, and his symptoms settled after 3 months. [West J Emerg Med. 2012;13(1):123–124.]
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Unilateral Internuclear Ophthalmoplegia after Minor Head Injury

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Supervising Section Editor: Sean Henderson, MD
Submission history: Submitted June 19, 2010; Revision received July 26, 2011; Accepted August 1, 2011
Reprints available through open access at http://escholarship.org/uc/uciem_westjem
DOI: 10.5811/westjem.2011.8.6595

Internuclear ophthalmoplegia is a rare condition caused by injury to the medial longitudinal fasciculus in the brainstem. It usually occurs in conditions such as stroke or multiple sclerosis and is extremely rare after head injury. We report a case of unilateral internuclear ophthalmoplegia, which occurred after a minor head injury in a young male. His only symptoms were headache and diplopia. He was treated conservatively, and his symptoms settled after 3 months. [West J Emerg Med. 2012;13(1):123–124.]

A 17-year-old male was admitted to our emergency unit after a head injury. He described running, and hitting the front of his head on a lamppost, with brief loss of consciousness.

On admission, he had complaints of a generalized headache and double vision, but no other symptoms. On examination, vital signs and Glasgow Coma Scale were normal, but he was unable to adduct his right eye, and had double vision in the neutral position, worse on looking toward the left (Figure 1). Findings from the cranial nerve examination were otherwise normal, and there were no other neurologic deficits or injuries found. An initial computed tomography (CT) result was reported as normal, but a subsequent magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) revealed small bilateral frontal lobe contusions (Figure 2). He was admitted, managed conservatively, and after neurosurgical review, discharged with analgesia and an eye patch. Subsequent review at 3 months showed complete resolution of his diplopia.

Unilateral internuclear ophthalmoplegia usually occurs in patients with multiple sclerosis or vascular disease1 and is extremely rare after head injury.2 It results from trauma to the medial longitudinal fasciculus (MLF), bundles of nerve fibres...
in the brainstem, connecting nuclei of the cranial nerves controlling head movement and directional gaze. Injury to the MLF is characterized by inability to adduct 1 eye in lateral gaze, and monocular fast-phase nystagmus of the abducting eye. It is important to note that CT imaging findings are frequently normal, and MRI is the imaging modality of choice.\(^3\) Symptoms usually resolve with conservative management after a few months, but sometimes can persist for more than a year.\(^2\)

Conflicts of Interest: By the WestJEM article submission agreement, all authors are required to disclose all affiliations, funding, sources, and financial or management relationships that could be perceived as potential sources of bias. The authors disclosed none.

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