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13th World Conference on

Neurology and Neuromuscular Disorders

October 01-02, 2018 | Frankfurt, Germany

The efficacy of endovascular embolization in the treatment of blood blister-like aneurysms and intracranial pseudoaneurysms using a rivet-like technique

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Statement of the Problem: Supraclinoid internal carotid artery blood blister-like aneurysms (BBAs) and traumatic intracranial pseudoaneurysms (PSAs) are rare but dangerous aneurysm subtypes with high mortality rates. This study is aimed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of endovascular embolization using a rivet-like technique for treating BBAs and PSAs.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: Six patients with ruptured BBAs and one patient with PSA of the internal carotid artery underwent endovascular embolization treatment using rivet-like technique were collected from First Affiliated Hospital of Gannan Medical University (Ganzhou, China) between Mar. 2012 and Dec. 2017. Clinical data, including postoperative cerebral angiography results and follow-up information of patients were analyzed retrospectively.

Findings: Complete treatment using rivet-like technique was achieved in all seven patients, and the clinical data revealed four patients discharged from the hospital with a mRS score of 1, two with mRs 2 and one with mRS 3. The mRS at six months after surgery is as follows: 0 score in 2 patients, 1 scores in 3, 2 scores in 1 and 3 scores in 1. Five patients with angiography follow-up ranged from three to six months after surgery, and no recurrent aneurysms and parent vessel occlusion were detected at early or intermediate follow-up.

Conclusion & Significance: Our study suggest that rivet-like technique can effectively increase the metal coverage of the aneurysm neck and potential further reduce the rate of aneurysm recurrence, is a viable endovascular option for ruptured BBAs and PSAs of the internal carotid artery. Short-term efficacy is safe and effective, but further experience and follow-up are needed to determine the long-term efficacy of this treatment.

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