

Severe stenosis of the left common carotid artery.

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Abstract

An 87-year-old male with expressive aphasia, weakness in the right upper extremity, and inability to write as normal. Carotid Doppler suggested a high-grade lesion of left common Carotid Artery that was confirmed by Carotid angiogram.

Clinical Images: Candle-flame-like severe stenosis of the left common carotid artery.

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An 87-year-old male retired lawyer who came to our outpatient clinic and reported expressive aphasia, weakness in the right upper extremity, and inability to write as normal. Symptoms were highly suggestive of TIAs. On physical examination, he had a loud left carotid bruit. Carotid Doppler suggested a high-grade lesion of left common Carotid Artery. Carotid angiogram showed a severe candle-flame-like narrowing in the left common carotid artery that extended to the bulb area with post stenotic dilatation (Figure 1). The patient underwent successful left carotid endarterectomy with no complications and no recurrence of TIAs symptoms on further follow-up.

TIAs are short events of neurologic function alteration caused by a regional reduction in blood flow to the brain without permanent sequels. [1,2] Strokes can cause long-term disability and death. Death rate increases with subsequent strokes, which often occur within one year of the first attack. TIAs and strokes can be caused by blockages and severe stenosis of carotid arteries. Carotid endarterectomy may reduce the possibility of repeated episodes of TIAs, as well as stroke and its complications, including death in patients with severe carotid occlusion. [3]

Keywords: Carotid stenosis, TIA, Stroke.

Key Clinical Message

Over half a million cases of stroke occur each year in the United States, strokes are important causes of long-term disability and death. Early detection and treatment of high-grade carotid lesions are important in stroke prevention.

Author Contribution

Maher Nasser MD: made the clinical diagnosis, performed the intervention, analyzed the results, and referred the patient to CV surgeon.

Miray Kurtca, Evelyn Calderon: reviewed the pertinent literature, drafted the paper, and communicated with potential journals.

References

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Figure Legends

Figure 1: Carotid angiogram showed severe stenosis of the left common carotid artery

