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Cerebrospinal Fluid Leakage and Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis: A Case Report

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INTRODUCTION
Cerebrovascular venous thrombosis is an uncommon entity that may occur in the sinuses of the dura, the cortical veins, or the deep venous system. Common etiologies include states of hypercoagulability, such as oral contraceptives intake, malignancy, and trauma. Additional causes include inherent thrombophilic states, such as those caused by systemic lupus erythematosus, protein C or S deficiency, and antithrombin III deficiency. The pathogenesis of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis stems from the obstruction of venous outflow. Consequently, venous engorgement occurs, leading to decreased effective blood flow and white matter edema. Infarction or hemorrhage are not uncommon in the setting of venous thrombosis. Intracranial pressure also rises. The most common presenting symptom is headache.2,3

The impact of intracranial hypotension due to cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leak on venous flow and thrombosis is not clear.1, 4-8, 10, 11 We present the case and treatment course of a patient who initially presented with an acute venous sinus thrombosis and in was later found to have a CSF leak and intracranial hypotension.

CASE PRESENTATION
The patient is a 42-year-old woman without significant past medical history who presented to an outside hospital following a number of seizures that were witnessed by her husband. The patient was seen approximately 1 week prior to the seizures in an outside emergency room due to neck pain. She was diagnosed with a bulging disk at that point and treated with oxycodone/acetaminophen and muscle relaxants. She was transferred to Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience where she was found to be agitated, tachycardic and hypertensive.

Head MRI revealed hyperintense T2 flair signal in the right frontal cortex likely due to venous congestion. There was thrombus in the superior sagittal sinus, extending from vertex level to just above the confluence of the sinuses. There was additional thrombosis in the right-sided cortical veins with a possible short segment clot in the left transverse sinus (see Figures 1 and 2). Ultrasonography of the legs was negative for deep venous thrombosis.

The patient was not taking oral contraceptives. She has a history of two uncomplicated vaginal births, no miscarriages, and her last menstrual period was 1 week prior to admission. The patient has no personal previous history of deep venous thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, bleeding, bruising or edema. The patient quit smoking approximately 1 week prior to admission.

A hypercoagulability work-up was performed. The patient was found to be heterozygous for the prothrombin 20210 gene variant. Also, the MTHFR gene was found to be heterozygous for C677T and negative for A1298C mutation. The patient was deemed to have a complex major thrombophilia secondary to these mutations.

No surgical intervention was undertaken during the initial hospitalization. The patient was placed on anticoagulation. On the 9th hospital day, the patient was deemed stable for discharge, and follow-up was arranged. The patient presented one month after her initial hospitalization, with recurrent severe headache and blurred vision, without reported focal upper and lower extremity neurological symptoms or seizures. On imaging, the patient was found to have complete recanalization of the previously noted superior sagittal sinus thrombosis. Also of note, the patient did have findings consistent with intracranial hypotension, and extra-dural fluid along the dorsolateral aspect of the thecal sac extending from C7 through the lower thoracic spine, presumably epidural in location compatible with CSF leak. The cerebellar tonsils were also visualized to be protruding mildly below the foramen magnum (Figures 2 and 3). The patient and family refused any procedures such as blood patch and myelogram. Again,
and was diagnosed with a bulging disk in the week prior to presenting to our institution. Present was seen in an ED for neck pain the night prior to presentation.7 As an example, the patient we refer to, a 42-year-old female. Currently, the relationship of these two entities is uncertain. Our case supports the hypothesis that CSF leakage and resulting intracranial hypotension may be a risk factor for thrombosis.

CONCLUSION
We presented an uncomplicated case of acute venous sinus thrombosis and CSF leakage in a 42-year-old female. Currently, the relationship of these two entities is uncertain. Our case supports the hypothesis that CSF leakage and resulting intracranial hypotension may be a risk factor for cerebral venous sinus thrombosis.

REFERENCES