Angiomas of the Cervical Spinal Cord

WALTER L. BAILEY, M.D.,* AND MICHAEL P. SPERL, M.D.

Department of Surgery, Saint Paul-Ramsey Hospital, Saint Paul, Minnesota
and the University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, Minnesota

ANGIOMAS of the cervical spinal cord are rare. In an exhaustive study Wyburn-Mason (1943) found only 17 such cases including his own series. We have been able to collect 52 cases from the English literature in which all of the angioma, or a portion, was located in the cervical cord. The two patients described in this communication bring the total reported to 54 cases. Our patients are unique because they underwent an operation to alter the blood supply to the cervical spinal cord at a time when they presented only minimal neurologic signs.

Case Reports

Case 1. This 10-year-old girl had been in excellent health until age 7 when she was hospitalized elsewhere because of subarachnoid hemorrhage. Physical examination then revealed right hemiparesis, absent right biceps reflex, and bilateral Babinski signs. The hemiparesis resolved in 1 month.

The patient remained asymptomatic until the day of admission, October 24, 1967 (3 years after her first episode). While riding horseback, she had sudden pain in the neck unassociated with any trauma. She noted weakness of her legs, became moderately lethargic, vomited, and was brought to the hospital.

Examination. The patient was a moderately lethargic, afebrile, 10-year-old girl who had tenderness over the posterior neck region. No cervical bruits or cutaneous nevi were found. X-rays of the skull and cervical spine were normal.

On the following morning she manifested opisthotonos. Bilateral Babinski signs were present, and the right biceps reflex was decreased. Lumbar puncture revealed an open-

Received for publication June 18, 1968.
Revision received November 7, 1968.
* Present address: Department of Neurosurgery, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

Fig. 1. Case 1. Cervical myelogram showing intramedullary filling defect at C-4 level on right with large vein draining angioma inferiorly in the postero-anterior view (right).
Angiomas of Cervical Cord


**FIG. 3.** Case 1. *Left:* Drawing of left lateral cine demonstrating vascular supply to angioma. *Right:* Left subclavian arteriogram. Angioma fills by branch of vertebral artery and ascending cervical artery.