

## Case Report

# Traumatic Aneurysm of the Callosomarginal Artery-Cortical Artery Junction from Penetrating Injury by Scissors

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Traumatic intracranial aneurysms (TICAs) are rare and are associated with high rates of morbidity and mortality. TICAs usually result from head injuries caused by traffic accidents, industrial accidents, or gunshots. We report a traumatic aneurysm of the callosomarginal artery-cortical artery junction arising from a penetrating injury by scissors. A 51-year-old woman was admitted to our hospital after suffering a penetrating injury caused by scissors. Computed tomography (CT) and CT-angiography demonstrated a right orbital roof fracture, subarachnoid hemorrhage, frontal lobe hemorrhage, intraventricular hemorrhage, and a traumatic aneurysm of the right callosomarginal artery-cortical artery junction. We trapped the traumatic aneurysm and repositioned a galeal flap. Postoperative CT showed a small infarction in the left frontal lobe. Follow-up angiography two months later showed no residual aneurysm. We suggest that an aggressive surgical intervention be performed whenever TICA is diagnosed.

**Key Words** : Pseudoaneurysm · Traumatic aneurysm · Distal anterior cerebral artery · Trapping.

## INTRODUCTION

Traumatic intracranial aneurysms (TICAs) are rare and constitute less than 1% of all aneurysms in large series<sup>3,14,20</sup>. TICAs have been reported in almost all major intracranial arteries but are most common in the middle cerebral and pericallosal arteries<sup>3,20</sup>. There are very few reports in the literature of TICAs of the callosomarginal artery (CM)<sup>9,12</sup>. The most frequent causes of peripheral TICAs are closed head trauma (62%), penetrating wounds (27%), and iatrogenic trauma (11%)<sup>2</sup>. Penetrating orbitocranial injuries are quite common in military practice, but they are very rarely seen in civilian life, where they are predominantly accidental injuries<sup>10</sup>.

Penetrating orbitocranial injuries caused by nonmissile low-velocity bodies constitute a rare subgroup, which has special features. Penetrating object injuries that occur when the victim falls onto a penetrating object, such as a nail, are encountered rarely<sup>1,4</sup>, and we have found only three reports of penetrating intra-

cranial injury by scissors<sup>8,15,21</sup>.

We report a TICA of the CM-cortical artery (CM-CA) junction caused by a penetrating injury with scissors. We discuss its diagnosis and treatment.

## CASE REPORT

A 51-year-old woman visited to our hospital after suffering a penetrating injury with scissors. Another person at accident place had removed the scissors immediately (Fig. 1). A physical examination in an emergency department demonstrated a laceration wound in the right upper eyelid (Fig. 2). A neurological examination upon admission revealed a drowsy mental state, neck stiffness, but no weakness. Computed tomography (CT) one hour later from accident revealed subarachnoid hemorrhage, frontal lobe hemorrhage, and intraventricular hemorrhage (Fig. 3). The scissors entered the skull through the right orbital roof and crossed the midline of the brain. Because the

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**Fig. 1.** Scissors after their removal by another person at the accident site.

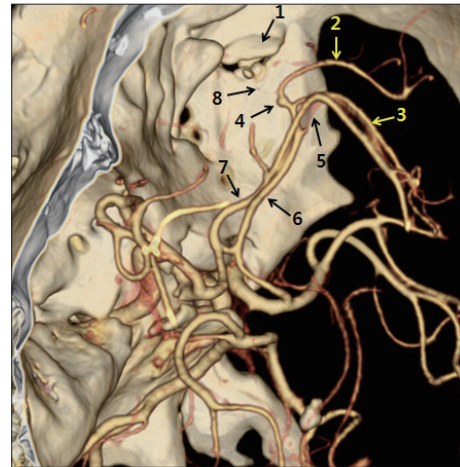


**Fig. 2.** Patient's face at the time of admission reveals a laceration of the right upper eyelid.

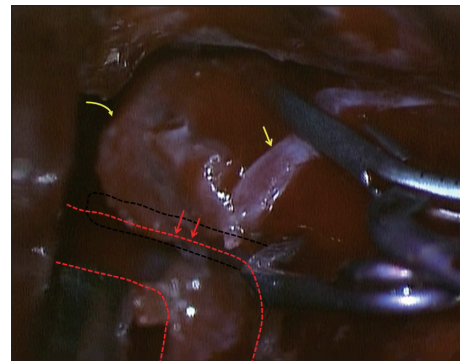


**Fig. 3.** Computed tomography in the emergency department shows subarachnoid hemorrhage, frontal lobe hemorrhage, and intraventricular hemorrhage.

trajectory crossed the midline and there was subarachnoid hemorrhage, a CT-angiographic examination was performed eight hours later from accident. A TICA at the right CM-CA junction was identified (Fig. 4). We made a bicoronal incision and performed an interhemispheric approach two days later.



**Fig. 4.** Computed tomography-angiography shows fracture of the right orbital roof and a traumatic aneurysm of the callosomarginal artery-cortical artery junction [1 : right orbital fracture, 2 : right callosomarginal artery, 3 : right pericallosal artery (A4), 4 : traumatic aneurysm, 5 : right long callosal artery, 6 : right pericallosal artery (A2), 7 : left pericallosal artery (A2), 8 : cortical artery].

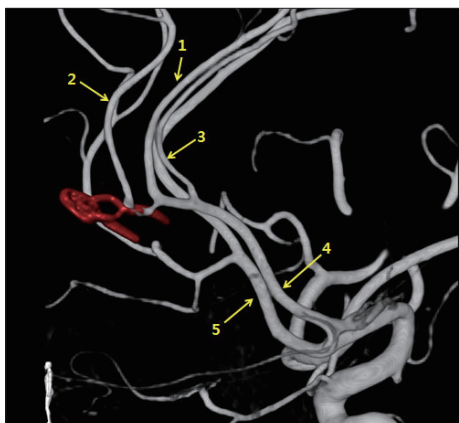


**Fig. 5.** Intraoperative findings. This figure shows the trapping of the pseudoaneurysm of callosomarginal artery-cortical artery junction (arrow : cortical artery, red dotted line : callosomarginal artery, curved arrow : cystic dilation of cortical artery, red arrow : ruptured site, black dotted line : blade of proximal clip).

We identified a skull defect in the anterior cranial fossa and repaired it with a galeal flap. After the hematoma adjacent to the TICA was removed, acute bleeding developed from the CM-CA junction. We identified two ruptured sites at left side wall of cortical artery and two injured sites at right side wall of cortical artery. Ruptured sites of cortical artery led to cystic dilation of CM-CA lumen. We trapped the TICA at the right CM-CA junction including ruptured and injured sites of CM-CA junction (Fig. 5). Proximal clip was applied to CM-CA junction and distal one to cortical artery. Proximal clipping resulted to partial stenosis of CM lumen but preserved flow in CM. Postoperative CT showed a small infarction in the left frontal lobe (Fig. 6). The patient developed postoperative meningitis due to methicillin-resistant coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus* and demonstrated behavioral changes. However, these symptoms were improved after the administration of vancomycin and conservative treatment. Follow-up angiography performed two months later



**Fig. 6.** Postoperative computed tomography reveals a small infarction in the left frontal lobe.



**Fig. 7.** Internal carotid angiography two months later demonstrates no flow in one cortical artery, but preserved flow in and stenosis of the right callosomarginal artery [1 : right pericallosal artery (A4), 2 : right callosomarginal artery, 3 : right long callosal artery, 4 : right pericallosal artery (A2), 5 : left pericallosal artery (A2)].

showed no residual aneurysm and a preserved right callosomarginal arterial flow but no flow in one cortical artery (Fig. 7).

## DISCUSSION

### Diagnosis

In injuries that penetrate the orbit, the three most frequent routes by which foreign bodies penetrate the cranium are through the orbit roof, the superior orbital fissure, or the optic canal<sup>16,17,22</sup>. The most frequent route is via the orbital roof because the superior orbital plate of the frontal bone is fragile<sup>17</sup>, and during the injury, patients extend their heads backwards, exposing the orbital roof<sup>6</sup>. Such penetration often leads to frontal lobe contusion. Penetration through the roof of the orbit may also affect the circle of Willis, and especially the anterior cerebral arteries. The second most frequent site of penetration is the superior orbital fissure<sup>17,22</sup>. Penetration through the superior orbital fissure may result in a lesion of the carotid artery, which can lead to a carotid-cavernous fistula or lesion of the occipital lobe<sup>13</sup>.

In our patient, the scissors penetrated the right orbital roof, and we suspected a traumatic aneurysm in this case for two reasons : the presence of subarachnoid hemorrhage and because the trajectory of the scissors crossed the midline. When a penetrating orbital or cranial injury is suspected, CT is considered the primary diagnostic examination<sup>11</sup>. Angiography is required to identify the site of injury to the intracranial vascular structures<sup>11</sup>.

TICAs have been classified by Burton et al.<sup>5</sup> according to the type of aneurysm produced, which include true aneurysms (partial disruption of the arterial wall), false aneurysms (or pseudoaneurysms; cavity in the encapsulated hematoma communicates with the lumen of the artery), and mixed aneurysms (rupture of a true aneurysm generates a secondary false aneurysm). In our patient, the type of TICa was pseudoaneurysm. Two ruptured sites of CM-CA junction were partial disruption of the arterial wall and had no true aneurysm. Cystic dilation of CM-CA junction was composed with hematoma and disrupted vessel wall.

### Treatment

When a patient who has suffered a penetrating head injury caused by scissors is taken to hospital, the general surgeon should not attempt to remove the foreign body. Previous reports have described frantic, unsuccessful efforts to extract scissors<sup>8,11,21</sup>. The notching of the scissor blades can catch on the skull, making their withdrawal difficult<sup>21</sup>. When someone tried to extract scissors too roughly, the tip of the scissors broke off and lodged in the brain<sup>15</sup>. In our case, person at accident place had removed the scissors from our patient.

With craniocerebral injuries of this type, there is a major risk of infection, with the direct infiltration of pathogens into the meningeal spaces or the cerebral parenchyma<sup>7</sup>. Infectious complications may arise from the presence of a contaminated foreign body or injury to a frontal sinus, or they can originate on the skin<sup>18</sup>. In our patient, early radical debridement was mandatory to prevent potentially fatal infectious complications. We consider that the patient's meningitis was easily controlled because the early operation provided massive irrigation and the anterior cranial fossa was repaired with a galeal flap. The removed scissors might also had been contaminated with a low-virulence pathogen. Contamination with a Gram-negative or a more virulent Gram-positive bacterium may have resulted in a more complex situation.

In the case of nonmissile penetrating orbitocranial injuries, every effort should be made to find and remove any retained foreign body, because the risk of cerebral infection is high<sup>6</sup>.

TICAs of the CM tend to rupture and should be managed with aggressive treatment. Yokota et al.<sup>24</sup> suggested that clinicians should manage TICAs aggressively based on their observation that a nonsurgical treatment group had a mortality rate of 40%, about four times higher than the corresponding rate for a surgical group of 11%. Therefore, we suggest that all TICAs be treat-



ed aggressively.

TICAs are often fragile and prone to rupture, and therefore present a challenging subset of vascular lesions for either surgical or endovascular therapy<sup>23</sup>. In our patient, neck clipping was difficult because the aneurysm had no defined aneurysmal neck. In the acute phase, the wall of a TICA can be extremely fragile. In contrast, after a few weeks (in the subacute stage), the wall of a TICA is presumed to be more stable because the aneurysm wall contains fibroblasts and other elements that strengthen and encapsulate the wall<sup>16</sup>. However, the rerupture rate for pseudoaneurysms or dissecting aneurysms is much higher in the acute stage<sup>19</sup>. Therefore, a delayed operation strategy entails a risk of rerupture.

The surgical treatment of TICAs without sacrificing the parent artery can be extremely difficult, depending on the location of the TICA. In our patient, neck clipping was difficult because the aneurysm had a poorly defined neck and the parent artery could not be trapped without sacrificing a parent artery. Sacrifice of one cortical artery resulted to small infarction of frontal lobe.

## CONCLUSION

We report a traumatic aneurysm of the CM-CA junction arising from a penetrating injury by scissors. We suggest that an aggressive surgical intervention should be performed whenever TICA from penetrating injury is diagnosed.

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