Original Article

Effect of clipping anterior communicating artery aneurysms via pterional approach contralateral to supply of dominant blood: report of 15 patients

Peng Liu*, Li Pan*, Xuefeng An, Lianting Ma, Ming Yang

Department of Neurosurgery, Wuhan General Hospital of Guangzhou Military Command, Wuhan, China. *Co-first authors.

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Abstract: Background and purpose: Anterior communicating artery aneurysm (ACoAA) is a common cerebrovascular disease. This research is to observe the curative effect and safety of clipping anterior communicating artery (ACoA) aneurysms by microsurgery through the pterional approach contralateral to supply of dominant blood. Materials and methods: Before the surgery, three-dimensional-DSA (3D-DSA) was performed to study the regional anatomy of ACoA complexes in all 15 patients with ACoA aneurysms. According to 3D-DSA, the aneurysms and ACoA complexes could be satisfactorily exposed by the microsurgery through the pterional approach contralateral to the supply of dominant blood. And then the microsurgery through the pterional approach contralateral to the supply of dominant blood was performed in 15 patients with ACoA aneurysms. Results: Clipping of ACoA aneurysms were successfully performed in all patients. The aneurysms and ACoA complexes were satisfactorily exposed via 3D-DSA. Among 15 patients with ACoA aneurysms, 14 cases were cured and 1 case need further care. Conclusions: The ideal side of pterional approach may be cheese via simulation of pterional approach with 3D-DSA. The ACoA complex and aneurysm can be clearly exposed, and the aneurysm may be smoothly clipped safely by the microsurgery through the ideal side pterional approach contralateral to supply of dominant blood in the patients with ACoA aneurysms.

Keywords: Anterior communicating artery aneurysm, operative approach, microsurgery, pterional approach contralateral, three-dimensional-DSA

Introduction

Anterior communicating artery aneurysms (ACoAA) is a common cerebrovascular disease, which could cause aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage (aSAH), about 21.0%–25.5% of percent of spontaneous subarachnoid hemorrhage (SSAH) [1-3]. In the past 30 years, with the rapid development of nerve surgery and endovascular treatment technique, disabling and fatality rate of aneurysmal SAH has fallen. In recent years, with the development of CTA, MRA and 3D-DSA, more and more patients with intracranial aneurysms have been detected [4, 5]. The prevention and treatment of intracranial aneurysms would be an important problem for patients and doctors. Otherwise, this would increase the burden of family and society.

At present, the treatment of anterior communicating artery aneurysms includes endovascular interventional surgery and microsurgery clipping surgery. Microscopic surgery is still a very important treatment. There are two approaches in the treatment of anterior communicating artery aneurysms, pterion approach and the approach between the hemispheres [6, 7]. There are several changes in pterion approach, including additional lateral supraorbital approach and rontotemporal orbital zygomatic approach, etc [8].

In the surgery of clipping of intracranial aneurysm, proximal control as a technique is often used. So in clinic, the pterional approach of the supply of dominant blood was often performed in the microsurgery of clipping of anterior communicating artery aneurysms [9, 10]. However, the local anatomy of communicating artery complex is very complicate, in some conditions aneurysm was shade by communicating artery complex and very difficult to be clipped, such as
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Clinical data

Patients’ information

15 patients with anterior communicating artery aneurysms had disease because of spontaneous subarachnoid blood and were cheese in our present research. There were 7 males and 8 females, and the average age was 56 (between 38 and 69). In 14 cases the time from onset to surgery was 1-14 days. According to Hunt-Hess degrades, there were 3 cases with I degrade, 6 cases with II degrade, 5 cases with III degrade; only one with IV degrade. According to CT imaging data, there was visible subarachnoid hemorrhage in all 15 patients, at the site of longitudinal crack, saddle pool, lateral fissure pools and pool between brain pool, etc. At the same time, there was intraventricular hemorrhage in 9 cases.

Diagnosis and preoperative planning

Before surgery, all patients were performed the detection of three dimensional-DSA (Innova 3100, Co. GE). In three-dimensional mode of AW workstation, the relationship of artery aneurysm and anterior communicating artery complex was researched. Then focus on the local anatomy of anterior communicating artery complex in the position of double flank point.

Treatment

Anterior communicating artery aneurysms by microsurgery through pterional approach contralateral to supply of dominant blood were clipped. Then cut the tumors to confirm that the clipping was complete. After surgery, patients were performed with routine postoperative treatment.

Results

DSA detection

According to DSA detection, in 15 patients with anterior communicating artery aneurysms, there were 10 cases with dominant side to the left side of the brain artery $A_1$, 3 cases with dominant side to the right side of the brain artery $A_1$. There were 3 cases with the absence of the right side of $A_1$ segment. There was 1 case of both Moyamoya disease and occlusion of left middle cerebral artery. Aneurysm was
pointed to the rear, and located in section A₂ between bilateral.

3D-DSA simulation operation plan

The relationship between anterior communicating artery aneurysms and perspective communicating artery complex was observed from the site of LAO\RAO 30° of CAU 0~5° (the advantage site to internal carotid artery angiography three-dimensional images in similar to the left and right click on the road against Shang Shi head). In our patients, the necks of tumors were located in the anterior communicating artery and the bodies of tumors were in the section A₂ of anteromedial brain artery. From the site of the supply of dominant blood, the lateral section A₂ hides most of tumors and the neck of tumor was difficult to be shown. And from the site of contralateral to the supply of dominant blood, the body, neck of tumor and bilateral section A₂ can clear display (Figures 1-4).

Observation of local anatomy

Normal anatomy of the saddle area pool in 13 cases indicated that the early of contralateral A₁ segment (dominant side) can be exposed clearly so that patients could be obtained proximal control. The aneurysms of 10 cases were clipped under the proximal control. There were 3 cases with intraoperative rupture, which was clipped satisfactorily under the proximal control. In all 15 patients, part of straight back was removed to expose the aneurysm, with scene of aneurysm sandwiched between bilateral section A₂, and the neck of tumor showed clearly. After clipping the aneurysm, it was completely free and be cut to confirm whether it was clipped completely, not clipped through artery. During the surgery, the local anatomy was very close to the intraoperative vascular anatomy of 3D-DSA.

Effect of treatment and follow-up

After surgery, 14 patients recovered out of hospital and 1 needed further life care. With following up for 1 year to 3 years, 6 cases were counterchecked with CT angiography, 7 cases with CT and 2 case with DSA. And no recurrence and rehaemorrhagia occurred again in all patients.

Discussion

In clinic, it’s very common to find out the unequal development of section A₁ of anteromedial brain artery. The resulting hemodynamic changes are considered to be one of the main reasons for the formation of anterior communicating artery aneurysms [14]. In the surgery of clipping aneurysms, it is very often to
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perform the proximal control. So it is very normal to choose the pterional approach contralateral to supply of dominant blood to clip the anterior communicating artery aneurysms [15, 16]. The local anatomy of the anterior communicating artery aneurysms is very complex and there are 13 arteries in them. According to 2D-DXA, the points of aneurysm are divided into 5 types [17, 18]. Among them the aneurysm located in bilateral A₂ section and the complex deep are very difficult to be clipped. When the aneurysm is located in between bilateral section A₂, it was completely in the shadow of the ipsilateral section A₂ and difficult to be separated, coagulated, and cut [4, 19]. At the same time, the neck of tumor was also hided under the A₂ section and the body of tumor, which cause the possibility of tearing tumor neck. Otherwise, the contralateral approach is adapted to aneurysm and bilateral section A₂ fully display in the operation area [20, 21]. In the field, the relationship among the neck, the body of tumor and artery is very clear, which make it easier to separate and clip the aneurysm.

Anterior communicating artery aneurysms make the local anatomy of anterior communicating artery complex more complicated. So from the conventional 2D-DXA, it can’t fully understand the outline of the local anatomy beforehand [22, 23]. In previous studies, according to the information provided by the CT angiography and MR angiography, the anterior communicating artery was classified to provide the guide for the choice of surgical approach [24].

3D-DXA is now considered the “gold standard” of diagnosis of cerebral aneurysms and the 3D-workstation could provide the performer with comprehensive, fully understanding of the local anatomy and simulation of the operation conditions [25, 26]. According to simulating the position of both flanks approach, it could strengthen the prediction and judge of local conditions during the surgery, which can indicate the most convenient approach of exposing and clipping the aneurysms. It is very important for the operating strategy and the prevention of an emergency during the surgery [27, 28]. In our present research, according to 3D-DXA, we found it difficult to clip the aneurysms by microsurgery through pterional approach to supply of dominant blood. The local anatomy of anterior communicating artery during the surgery was very close to the vascular anatomy of 3D-DXA simulation, which provided good guide for the microsurgery through pterional approach contralateral to supply of dominant blood.

In the surgery of clipping the aneurysm, the proximal control is a very useful technology. The bilateral A₂ segment could be exposed and under in control when pterion approach to clip the anterior communicating artery was performed (Figures 1-6). In our present study, 1 case didn’t get the proximal control beforehand. But after separating the bilateral section

Figure 5. The proximal control of A₁ section of the anterior cerebral artery during the surgery.

Figure 6. After clipping the aneurysm, the aneurysm and A₂ segment of anterior cerebral artery were seen clearly.
A_2 and the aneurysm, the segment A_1 was also under control again. So it was unnecessary to worry that the dominant side into the approach was not easy to obtain proximal control [11, 29, 30].

In conclusion, according to the simulation of 3D-DSA pterion approach, the pterional approach contralateral to supply of dominant blood is the best way to expose the aneurysm and anterior communicating artery complex for clipping the aneurysm. This approach can still get good proximal control, which is more convenient, safe and effective for the treatment of aneurysm.

Disclosure of conflict of interest

None.

Address correspondence to: Dr. Li Pan, Department of Neurosurgery, Wuhan General Hospital of Guangzhou Military Command, 627 Wuilo Road, Wuhan 430070, Hubei, People's Republic of China. Tel: +0086-027-50772498; Fax: +0086-027-68879947; E-mail: lipan658@yeah.net

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