A 9-year-old girl without prior trauma presented with weakness and headache. Examination showed profound left hemiplegia. MRI demonstrated a right middle cerebral artery (MCA) territory infarction. Magnetic resonance angiography showed proximal right MCA irregularity. Conventional angiography revealed an intracranial dissection (figure).

Intracranial dissections are frequently spontaneous (nontraumatic) and are associated with stroke in the young, comprising 60% of anterior circulation dissections in childhood. Exclusion of intracranial dissections is challenging using magnetic resonance angiography; cerebral angiography must be considered. Potential treatments include anticoagulation and antiplatelet therapies; Class III recommendations discourage anticoagulation because of the association of subarachnoid hemorrhage with intracranial dissection.

REFERENCES

Child Neurology: Stroke due to nontraumatic intracranial dissection in a child
Bernhard Suter and Lisa Michael El-Hakam
Neurology 2009;72:e100
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0b013e3181a55f52

This information is current as of May 11, 2009

Updated Information & Services

including high resolution figures, can be found at:
http://www.neurology.org/content/72/19/e100.full.html

References

This article cites 2 articles, 2 of which you can access for free at:
http://www.neurology.org/content/72/19/e100.full.html##ref-list-1

Subspecialty Collections

This article, along with others on similar topics, appears in the following collection(s):
All Cerebrovascular disease/Stroke
http://www.neurology.org/cgi/collection/all_cerebrovascular_disease_stroke
Carotid artery dissection
http://www.neurology.org/cgi/collection/carotid_artery_dissection
Childhood stroke
http://www.neurology.org/cgi/collection/childhood_stroke

Permissions & Licensing

Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:
http://www.neurology.org/misc/about.xhtml#permissions

Reprints

Information about ordering reprints can be found online:
http://www.neurology.org/misc/addir.xhtml#reprintsus