Transient deficits after inadvertent intrathecal trigger-point injection with lidocaine

A 43-year-old woman had trigger-point injections for chronic neck pain by a traditional Chinese medicine physician. Paravertebral muscles at C5-C6 were infiltrated with lidocaine. Thirty minutes later, right-sided hemiparesis with nystagmus, dysarthria, and anisocoria developed. The patient complained of vertigo, vomited multiple times, and became somnolent. Neuroimaging revealed air in the ventricular system (figure 1) and in the dural sheath of the fifth cervical nerve root (figure 2), implying an accidental intrathecal injection and thus a possible direct effect of lidocaine. Three hours later, neurologic symptoms resolved gradually and the patient recovered fully. MRI revealed no intraparenchymal damage.

Figure 1 Air in the ventricular system

Noncontrast CT of the brain shows air inclusion in the anterior horn of the left lateral ventricle (black arrow).

Figure 2 Air in the dural sheath of the fifth cervical nerve root

CT angiography reveals air inclusion in the dural sheath of the fifth cervical nerve root (black arrow), adjacent to the left vertebral artery (red arrow).
Daniel Bereczki, Jr., MD, Nora Peto, MD, Norbert Szegedi, MD

From the Department of Neurology, Medical Centre, Hungarian Defence Forces, Budapest, Hungary.

Author contributions: Dr. Daniel Bereczki, Jr.: examination of the patient, collecting all clinical data, writing of the manuscript. Dr. Nora Peto: examination of the patient, critical review and revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content. Dr. Norbert Szegedi: examination of the patient, critical review and revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content, supervision.

Study funding: No targeted funding reported.

Disclosure: The authors report no disclosures relevant to the manuscript. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

Correspondence to Dr. Bereczki: bereczki.daniel@hotmail.com

NEW!

Without Borders – A curated collection featuring advances in global neurology

This Neurology® special interest Web site is the go-to source for tracking science and politics of neurology beyond the United States, featuring up-to-the-minute blogs, scholarly perspectives, and academic review of developments and research from Neurology journals and other sources. Curated by Gretchen L. Birbeck, MD, MPH.

Expand your world view at Neurology.org/woborders.
Transient deficits after inadvertent intrathecal trigger-point injection with lidocaine
Daniel Bereczki, Jr, Nora Peto and Norbert Szegedi
Neurology 2016;87:848-849
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000003015

This information is current as of August 22, 2016