Letter: C1 Transverse Process Resection for Management of Jugular Stenosis

To the Editor:

We read with great interest the paper by Fritch et al¹ reporting a case of idiopathic intracranial hypertension associated with a bilateral stenosis of the internal jugular vein (IJV).

This is a very interesting case treated by C1 lateral mass resection and venous stenting.

We found the surgical technique very nice and elegant, although we were wondering why the choice was to resect the lateral mass of C1 rather than the styloid process (which is clearly elongated, as shown by Figure 3^1).

We had experience with 8 symptomatic patients suffering from the eagle jugular syndrome² with impingement of IJV by a conflict between the arch of C1 and an elongated styloid process.

We treated 1 patient with styloid ectomy and venous stenting with good results. The same procedure was reported by Lin et al³ with a good outcome.

Indeed, we believe the lateral mass resection of C1 could be a more complex and riskier procedure (especially for vertebral artery injuries) than a stiloidectomy.

Since pre- and postoperative angiography also showed a nearcomplete occlusion on the left IJV (Figures 3 and 4¹), did the authors consider performing venous manometry and eventually also decompress this side before repositioning the lumbarperitoneal shunt?

Finally, we are grateful to Fritch et al¹ for showing a different approach and reporting their experience and technique on this particular kind of rare disease. Moreover, we do believe surgical treatment for stenosis of IJV could be considered in long-term symptomatic patients after conservative attempts, especially in patients also presenting signs of intracranial hypertension.⁴

Disclosures

The authors have no personal, financial, or institutional interest in any of the drugs, materials, or devices described in this article.

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10.1093/ons/opaa200