



Epicrania fugax: a case report

Jonata Ribeiro de Sousa¹; Rodrigo André de Souza Araújo¹; Maria Clara Arcoverde Santana¹; Pedro Augusto Sampaio Rocha Filho²

1. Hospital Universitário Oswaldo Cruz, Recife - PE - Brazil.
2. Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Recife - PE - Brazil.

Introduction

Epicrania fugax (EF) is a primary headache characterized by episodes of brief, paroxysmal pain that runs across the surface of the head, in a linear or zigzag trajectory, through territories of different nerves. There are two variants described at that time, the posteroanterior and the anteroposterior. Actually is included in the Appendix of the third version of the International Classification of Headache Disorders (ICHD- 3).

Objective

To describe a case of EF.

Case report

A 79-year-old woman had a severe headache that started about 5 years ago. She described the headache attacks as paroxysms of pain that lasted seconds, and ran across the surface of the head, in a linear trajectory, from occipital to frontal region, duration of seconds and happened with a frequency of 2-3 episodes per month. During these attacks, she did not have trigeminoautonomic symptoms, aura, photophobia, phonophobia, nausea, vomiting, or worsened with physical exertion. Additionally, she had another headache that fulfilled the criteria for migraine without aura, with a frequency of 5 attacks per month. The temporal artery palpation revealed no abnormalities.

Neurological examination was completely normal. Magnetic resonance imaging of the head was normal. Amitriptyline, 25 mg per day, was prescribed for the prophylactic treatment of migraine. We chose not to treat EF due to the low frequency of attacks.

Conclusion

Epicrania fugax is a rare and still little- known primary headache. The description of new cases contributes to a better understanding of their patterns.

Keywords Headache Disorders; Primary; Headache; Epicrania fugax.