Seizures

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Mesial Temporal (Hippocampal) Sclerosis (& temporal lobe encephalomalacia)



Hippocampal Atrophy (yellow arrow) Temporal lobe encephalomalacia (orange arrows)



FLAIR MRI image, coronal

HEALTH

RADIOLOGY

Hippocampal Atrophy with increased T2 signal (yellow arrow) Temporal lobe encephalomalacia (orange arrow)



T2-weighted MRI image, coronal



Hippocampal sclerosis with increased T2 signal and loss of gray-white tissue contrast of the left hippocampus (yellow arrow) as opposed to right hippocampus where graywhite lamina are preserved (orange arrow)



T2-weighted merged MRI image, coronal



- Presentation:
 - Intractable temporal lobe epilepsy.
- Etiology:
 - Does mesial temporal sclerosis cause temporal lobe epilepsy or vice versa?
 - Theory that hippocampal sclerosis is both cause & result of Sz, being damaged by Sz (excitotoxic) & becomes an amplifier, eventually the cause of seizures



• MRI (modality of choice):

- Dedicated temporal lobe epilepsy protocol needs to be performed to achieve good sensitivity & specificity.
- Thin section coronals preferably angled perpendicular to the hippocampal long axis to minimize volume averaging.
- MRI Findings:
 - Reduced hippocampal volume; hippocampal atrophy
 - Increased T2 signal
 - Loss of internal architecture/abnormal morphology of the hippocampus
 - Look for second seizure focus,
 e.g. cortical migration disorder
 hemosiderin, or encephalomalacia



- MRI findings associated with severe or long-standing disease:
 - Atrophy of the ipsilateral fornix and mammillary body.
 - Atrophy of the cingulate gyrus.
 - Dilation of the temporal horn of the lateral ventricle.
 - Temporal lobe atrophy.
 - Increased signal and/or reduction in the volume of the amygdala.
 - Thalamic and caudate atrophy.
 - Limbic lobe: Papez circuit



• Treatment:

- Anti-epileptic medical therapies.
- Temporal lobectomy or selective (hippocampectomy, amygdalohippocampectomy) in patients who fail medical management.
- Anterior temporal lobectomy successful in 75-90% of patients with mesial temporal sclerosis.



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