

## Takayasu Arteritis Presenting with Massive Cerebral Ischemic Infarction with Severe Unilateral Renal Artery Stenosis: A Case Report

### Authors:

Dr. R. L. Meena\*, Dr. Ashok Kumar Yadav<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Hemant Kumar Rajpurohit<sup>2</sup>, Dr. Nitesh Gurjar<sup>3</sup>, Dr. Mallinath S. Maheshwadagi<sup>4</sup>, Dr. Shailendra Gupta<sup>5</sup>, Dr. Kesav Sharda<sup>6</sup>, Dr. Hitesh Sharma<sup>7</sup>

\*Senior Professor and Unit Head, RNT Medical College Udaipur, <sup>1,2,3,4</sup>Junior Resident, <sup>5</sup>Assistant Professor, <sup>6</sup>Senior Resident, <sup>7</sup>Junior Resident

Dept. of Medicine RNT Medical College Udaipur, Rajasthan.

### Corresponding Author:

Dr. Hemant Kumar Rajputohit

Junior Resident, Dept. of Medicine RNT Medical College Udaipur Rajasthan.

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### **ABSTRACT:**

Takayasu arteritis is a relatively rare type of large-vessel arteritis that primarily affects the aorta and its major branches, the coronary arteries, and the pulmonary arteries. Depending on the different groups of blood vessels involved in the disease process, the clinical presentation of Takayasu arteritis varies. Takayasu arteritis (TA) is a chronic vasculitis disease of unknown etiology. Clinically significant renal disease is relatively common, and renovascular hypertension is the major renal problem. Here we report a case of male presenting with a debilitating massive cerebral ischemic infarct that turned out to be a relatively rare presentation of Takayasu arteritis only 5% case reported. We reported a case of **28 yr old male** presented to the Emergency Department at M.B. hospital udaipur with right hemiparesis and hypertension with constitutional symptoms. On examination right hemiparesis, residual weakness left upper and lower limb and absent pulse bilateral radial, brachial and subclavian artery. Laboratory results showed an elevated leucocytes counts, raised C-reactive protein and erythrocyte sedimentation rate. MRI brain with mr-angiography revealed acute with chronic cerebral ischemic infarct with narrowing and occlusion of the major branches of his aortic arch with many collaterals. Contrast CT-abdomen revealed significant right renal artery stenosis. **Conclusion:-** Takayasu arteritis is a relatively rare disease with various and sometimes devastating clinical manifestations, such as massive cerebral ischemic infarction as in our case. Currently, there are multiple diagnostic tools and treatment options available, and more under investigation. Early, appropriate diagnosis and initiation of proper therapy could avoid further progression and reduce complications of the disease.

**Keywords:** Takayasu arteritis (TA), glucocorticoid (GS), immunosuppressants (IS), methotrexate (MTX)

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Takayasu arteritis (TA) is a rare autoimmune, idiopathic, and chronic granulomatous large vessel vasculitis mainly affecting the aorta and its large branches. It induces a variety of nonspecific inflammatory (systemic and local) and ischemic symptoms due to the formation of stenotic lesions and thrombi. The inflammatory process initially leads to thickening of the arterial wall which may result in stenosis, occlusion, dilatation, aneurysm formation or rupture of the involved arteries (Jolly and Curran, 2005). Symptoms of the disease can be very diverse depending on the location and degree of involvement of the inflamed vessels. Clinical manifestations include fatigue, weight loss, fever, faintness, headache, and differences

in arterial pressure between bilateral upper or lower limbs. The most severe symptoms include pulmonary thrombosis, aortic regurgitation, congestive heart failure, cerebrovascular events, degeneration of vision or blindness, and hearing problems. In severe cases, it is very difficult to feel a pulse in patients, and for this reason TA is called 'pulseless disease' (Terao et al., 2014). Correct diagnostics, early recognition and appropriate therapy are very important for prevention of severe complications. Glucocorticoids and immunosuppressive drugs are primarily used for treatment, but biological drugs are playing an increasing role in therapy. It is critical to elucidate the pathophysiological mechanisms involved in TA for

further treatment development The exact etiology is assumed to be a cell-mediated inflammatory process within the vasculature, which can result in occlusion, aneurysmal dilatation, and constriction in afflicted segments because of mononuclear and granulomatous infiltrates, which causes a variety of symptoms<sup>1</sup>. During the disease's acute phase, patients may also have symptoms such as limb weakness or pain, headaches, syncopal attacks, and uneven blood pressure. Fever, weight loss, and exhaustion are examples of constitutional symptoms that may occur first<sup>2</sup>.

Takayasu arteritis is a relatively rare type of large-vessel arteritis that primarily affects the aorta and its major branches, the coronary arteries, and the pulmonary arteries. Here we report a case of a male presenting with debilitating massive cerebral ischemic infarction that turned out to be Takayasu arteritis.

The most frequently used diagnostic pattern in clinical and epidemiologic studies of TA is American college of rheumatology (ACR) Classification Criteria, which includes five clinical and one imaging criteria (Arend et al., 1990). A diagnosis of Takayasu arteritis according to the criteria of ACR from 1990, might be made if a patient has at least three of these six criteria present<sup>3</sup>:

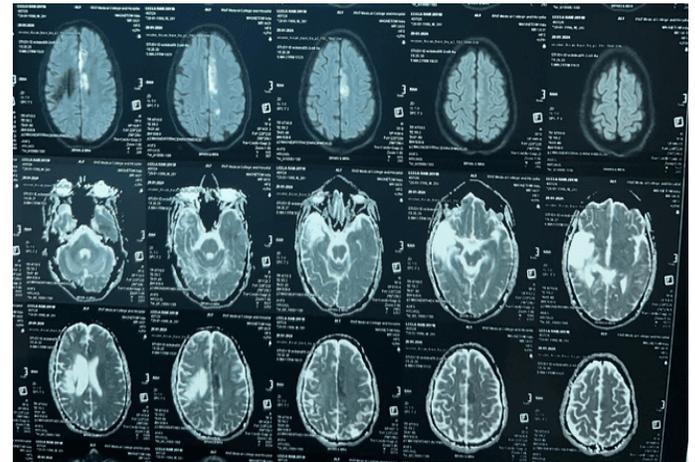
1. age <40 years at disease onset
2. claudication of extremities .
3. decreased brachial artery pulse
4. difference of >10 mm hg systolic blood pressure between arms.
5. bruit audible on auscultation over one or both subclavian arteries or abdominal aorta.
6. Pathological changes (usually focal or segmental) in aortic arteriography and/or its branches

### **CASE PRESENTATION:**

A 28-year-old male presented to the Emergency Department (ED) with complaint of sudden onset weakness on right side of body with hypertension and residual motor weakness on left side from last 5 years . Patient has history of left hemiparesis with history of hospitalization for 3 weeks 5 years back . weakness partially improved with in 1 month after stroke but some left sided body weakness persisted . patient also complaint constitutional symptoms i.e. fatigue, anorexia , mild fever,weight loss with night sweats off and on last 5 years . family history was non-significant . patient denied the use of alcohol, tobacco products or recreational drugs. On physical examination, he was conscious and oriented . heart rate was 88 beats per minute (regular) .no pulse palpated over radial brachial and subclavian artery bilateral. Blood pressure non recordable from bilateral upper limb. Right popliteal artery blood pressure was 240/134mmHg and left popliteal artery blood pressure 160/100mmHg .

There was residual left-sided hemiparesis . no cranial nerve deficit detected on examination. Motor power was 4/5 grade on left upper and lower limb and 3/5 grade in right upper and lower limb. Sensory system was unremarkable . bowel and bladder was intact . On cvs examination absent right carotid pulsation and carotid bruit heard with weak pulsation over left carotid . no cardiac murmur or cardiac rub . Right audible renal artery bruit present. laboratory test results showed white blood cells (WBCs) of 13.9x10<sup>9</sup>/L, hemoglobin (Hb) of 13.2g/L, and platelets (PLTs) of 238x10<sup>9</sup>/L. ESR was 43 mm/1hr and CRP was raised . urine examination normal . renal and liver function test was normal . serum triglyceride and LDL cholesterol mild elevated . Serology for HBsAg, HCV, HIV, CTD and VDRL was non-reactive. The chest radiograph show cardiomegaly. 2D echocardiography concentric LVH and grade2 diastolic dysfunction with normal ejection fraction. Ultrasonography of the abdomen showed smaller size right kidney (5.6 x 2.3 cm) and left kidney size (10.4x4.4cm) . Bilateral renal arteries doppler study showed significant right main renal artery stenosis.

MRI Brain (fig.1) with MRA acute infract in left frontoparietal region in parafalcine location. gliosis with encephalomalacia in right fronto-parieto-temporal region and corona radiata region .MRA(fig.2)suggestive reduced caliber of right middle cerebral artery with flow related absent signals in right common carotid artery, right external carotid artery and right internal carotid artery , there are absent flow related signal in left common carotid artery .



**Fig1 -MRI : T2W hyperintensity in right fronto parieto temporal region in parafalcian location with FLAIR hypointense in right fronto-parieto-temporal region**

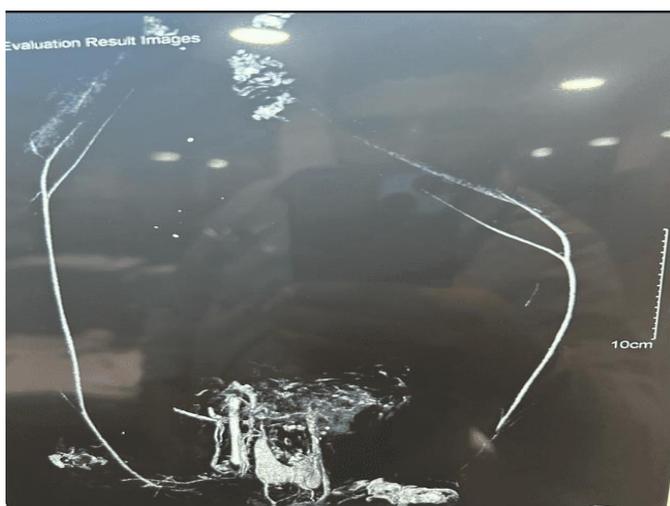


**Fig2-NECK VESSELS: absent signals in right common carotid internal carotid and external carotid . and fow related absent signal in left common carotid**

CT angiogram bilateral upper limb:-calcified as well as non calcified atherosclerotic plaques are seen in arch of aorta and descending thoracic aorta . there are non opacification of right brachiocephalic trunk, right subclavian artery, right common carotid artery and right axillary artery and right brachial artery opacified due to colletral formation .

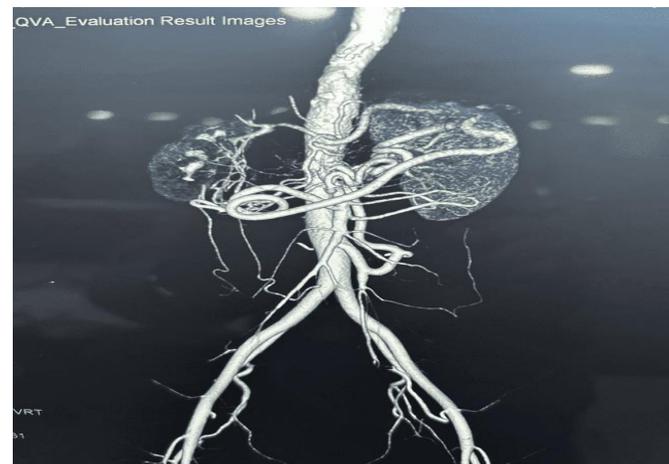
Bilateral proximal and mid radial and ulnar artery opacified and non opacification of distal radial and ulnar . there is evidence of non-opacification of left subclavian artery and left axillary artery however left brachial artery opacification due to colletral formation .

There are evidence of non opacification left common carotid artery from origin till its bifurcation however left internal and external carotid artery opacification due to colletral formation.



**fig3: CT angio bilateral upper limb arterial system non opacification right brachiocephalic trunk and left common carotid till its bifurcation**

CT angiography abdominal aorta(Fig.4) suggestive of narrowing at origin of celiac artery and superior mesenteric artery . there are narrowing at origin and reduced caliber of right renal artery with reduced caliber and small sized right kidney .



**FIG4: CECT- abdo.aorta show stenosis of right renal artery with narrowing of origin of celiac artery**

### **DISCUSSION:**

After the Japanese ophthalmologist Mikito Takayasu arteritis gets its name from Takayasu, who recorded a case for the first time in 1905. The chronic inflammatory vasculitis known as Takayasu affects the aorta, its major branches, the coronary and pulmonary arteries, as well as other large and medium-sized vessels. It is sometimes referred to as a pulseless condition because large arteries that originate from the aorta frequently become blocked. The exact pathophysiology is unknown.<sup>5</sup> However, pan arteritis, which has substantial intimal hyperplasia, medial and adventitial thickening, infiltration of mononuclear cells, and occasionally giant cells, is thought to be the cause.<sup>6</sup> It is mostly observed in Asian-descent women, peaking in the 30s. Takayasu illness affects 2 in 10,000 individuals annually, with a female to male ratio of 9:1 . The clinical manifestations of takayasu illness can vary depending on the vessels that are affected. Depending on the occlusion caused by the inflammatory infiltrates, it usually starts with constitutional symptoms like fever, weight loss, claudication, and fatigue and progresses to other symptoms like weakness, dizziness, lightheadedness, high blood pressure, retinopathy, aortic regurgitation, vascular bruits, neurological symptoms like seizures and syncope, etc. In almost 20% of instances, neurological symptoms are present<sup>7</sup> .

Three out of the six criteria listed above have a sensitivity of 90.5% and a specificity of 97.8% for diagnosis.<sup>8</sup> The conditions i.e. The differential diagnosis of Takayasu illness includes conditions that impact the

main arteries, such as atherosclerotic, inflammatory, infectious, and hereditary. TB, giant cell arteritis, fibromuscular dysplasia, and atherosclerosis are a few examples. The gold standard for diagnosing Takayasu's Arteritis is angiography. Doppler and non-invasive MRA, however, can also produce just as good results<sup>9</sup>. Acute phase reactants like ESR and CRP also provide additional evidence in favor of the diagnosis. The mainstay of treatment is expected to be systemic glucocorticoids(GS) and immunosuppressants(IS), which are believed to reduce inflammation and limit the development of the illness.<sup>10</sup> If irreversible arterial stenosis develops due to conditions such cerebral ischemia, hypertension with critical renal artery stenosis, extremity claudication, or both, surgical intervention (endovascular) may be required.<sup>11</sup> To avoid problems, surgical intervention is typically discouraged during active disease and advocated during quiescent disease. Our patient is under 30 years old, has bilateral brachial pulse impalpability, significant lumen narrowing of the bilateral subclavian arteries, abnormal thickening of the wall of the arch of the aorta, brachiocephalic artery, right subclavian artery, and right as well as left common carotid artery, all of which meet the diagnostic criteria. Collateral vessels sustain the brain perfusion. Syncope is a brief loss of consciousness brought on by cerebral hypoxia. Our patient experienced dizziness before sporadic syncope . The most commonly used therapeutic agents include CS and conventional IS agents, such as methotrexate( MTX). In patients who remain resistant and/or intolerant to these agents, biologics, including anti-TNF agents, RT and tocilizumab, seem promising. Antiplatelet treatment may lower the frequency of ischemic events in patients with TA. The mainstay of treatment for critical short-segment artery stenosis that poses a life-threatening risk is endovascular treatments such as balloon angioplasty or stent graft replacements that revascularize the afflicted organs. However, surgical bypass of the afflicted segment is necessary for long-segment stenosis with severe periarterial fibrosis or blockage. This procedure is unquestionably related with better outcomes than endovascular treatments. During the active stage of the disease, endovascular treatments and surgical operations should be avoided. Post-interventional IS treatment is recommended. Earlier diagnosis, better assessment of disease activity and future clinical trials will help improve the management of patient. our patient managed with CS, anti-platelets, statins, and antihypertensive drugs .

### **CONCLUSION:**

Takayasu arteritis belongs to rare, idiopathic diseases of the immune system affecting the aorta and its branches. It is increasingly recognized in Europe and clinical practitioners should be aware of this disease. Non-

specific systemic symptoms, which are accompanied by no pulse or various types of ischemic symptoms, should be considered along with deep diagnostic imaging. Early diagnosis and proper treatment can protect the patient from dangerous complications. Diagnosis and monitoring disease activity in TA may be accomplished by the integrated use of non-invasive imaging methods, patient symptoms, clinical findings and acute phase reactants. However, there is no single imaging method that provides all the information required and each method has distinct and complementary roles in assessing disease activity and vascular inflammation. Glucocorticoids and immunosuppressive drugs are mainly used for treatment of the disease, but biological drugs are increasingly used in therapy. More research is needed to better understand the path diagnosis of this disease, as well as to introduce new drugs and treatment regimens so that disease remissions are longer, treatments more effective, leading to a better life quality for patients.

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