



Chapter 11

PREGNANCY AND SUBARACHNOID HEMORRHAGE

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| Introduction

Several pathological disorders affect nervous system during pregnancy and puerperium. Some disorders are specific disorders of pregnancy, whereas others are common neurological disorders that are most frequent in this period.⁽²⁾

Pregnancy is a well known risk factor for subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH). Intracranial hemorrhage from an intracranial aneurysm or arteriovenous malformation (AVM) is a rare but life threatening complication of pregnancy and is responsible for 5-12 % of all maternal deaths.⁽¹⁾

Headache is very common during pregnancy and is therefore not specific for hemorrhage, however development of acute headache should be taken seriously.

There are several medical conditions presented with headache, seizures and / or focal neurological deficits. Differential diagnosis may be difficult and often depends on history and neuroimaging studies. It has been reported that delay of diagnosis may result in poorer outcome.⁽¹⁾

| Etiology

There is an association between pregnancy and risk of hemorrhagic stroke, and the incidence of SAH is increased during pregnancy.^(1, 3) Fox et al. reported that

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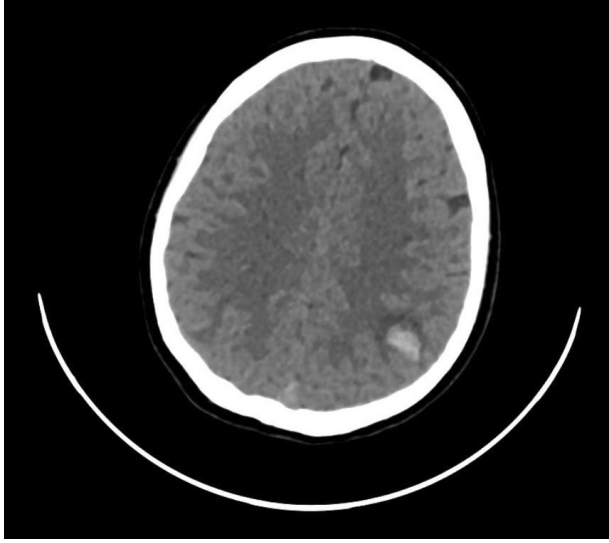


Figure 2. A 27 years old right handed primigravida. After 24 weeks of gestation she developed severe headache with right sided disturbance in fine motor movement and weakness in right arm. Her BP was measured as 135/85 mmHg. CT scan revealed a left sided localized hematoma formation which may indicate an underlying AVM.

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