Diffuse Vasospasm of All Four Extremities Resulting to Acute Arm and Legs’ Ischaemia Due to Cafergot Abuse

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Ergotism is a rare cause of vasospasm which occurs in 0.001–0.002% of patients receiving ergot derivatives primarily for treatment of migraine [Dagher FJ, Sidawy AN. Ergotism, current treatment in vascular surgery. 4th ed. Ernst-Stanley. p. 154–157]. Vasospasm though diffuse affects usually the lower limbs.

We present the case of a 38 year old woman with truly diffuse vasospasm, due to Cafergot suppositories abuse, of all four extremities causing severe ischaemia to her left arm and bilateral intermittent calf claudication.

The patient was treated successfully and recovered from vasospasm 72 h later.

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Occlusion of the Popliteal Artery in Hereditary Multiple Exostosis Syndrome

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Introduction. Hereditary multiple exostosis syndrome is a rare condition which can occasionally cause arterial occlusion.

Case report. A 50-year-old man was treated for acute leg ischaemia but no cause found. Two years later, acute ischaemia recurred and attempts at limb salvage failed. Hereditary multiple exostosis syndrome was then recognised as the cause due to a femoral exostosis compressing the popliteal artery.

Discussion. The case highlights a rare cause of acute limb ischaemia and emphasises the importance of arterial imaging when no embolic source is found.

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