

→ Abstracts

Articles appearing in the October 2018 issue

Clinical characteristics of Alice in Wonderland syndrome in a cohort with vestibular migraine

Background Alice in Wonderland syndrome (AIWS) is a rare sensory perception disorder, most often caused by migraine in adults. We aimed to characterize the clinical characteristics of AIWS in a cohort of vestibular migraine (VM) patients.

Methods Retrospective chart review of patients diagnosed with VM seen between August 2014 and January 2018.

Results Seventeen patients were identified (10 women) with a median age at onset of 45 years (range 15–61 years), and median age at presentation of 49 years (range 17–63 years). Eighty-two percent reported 1 AIWS symptom, 12% reported 3 symptoms, and 6% described 2 symptoms. The most common symptom was visual distortions (47%), followed by extrapersonal misperceptions (41%) and somesthetic distortions (29%). Most AIWS occurred during VM episodes (77%). Eleven patients were seen in follow-up; 10 described complete or partial resolution of both AIWS and VM with migraine preventive therapy, while 1 experienced complete resolution of VM but continued to have AIWS. Neuro-otologic abnormalities improved in 2 patients.

Conclusions This study characterizes the clinical features of AIWS in patients with VM. We observed several rare and highly unusual AIWS misperceptions (frosted-glass vision, underwater vision, dolly zoom effect, sensation of the brain coming out of the head, closed-eye visual hallucinations, and headlight glare-induced marco/microsomatognosia), and resolution or improvement in AIWS and VM with migraine preventive treatment.

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Sport concussion and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in student athletes: A cohort study

Background Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is associated with impulsive behavior and inattention, making it a potential risk factor for sport-related concussion (SRC). The objectives of this study were to determine whether ADHD is an antecedent risk factor for SRC and whether ADHD complicates recovery from SRC in youth athletes.

Methods Student athletes with a history of SRC were evaluated for the presence of ADHD using diagnostic interview and to determine whether ADHD symptoms began before or after SRC. Concussion-specific measures of concussive symptoms and cognitive function were compared in SRC + ADHD and SRC + No ADHD groups to assess SRC recovery between groups.

Results ADHD was overrepresented in youth with SRC compared with population rates. ADHD was found to be an antecedent risk factor for SRC, with age at ADHD onset earlier than the date of SRC. Student athletes with SRC and ADHD reported more concussive symptoms compared with athletes without ADHD and were more likely to have a history of greater than one concussion.

Conclusions The results of this study support our hypothesis that ADHD is an antecedent risk factor for SRC and may contribute to a more complicated course of recovery from SRC. Future research should focus on determining whether screening, diagnosis, and treating ADHD in youth athletes may prevent SRC. Providers that care for youth athletes with ADHD should be aware of the vulnerabilities of this population toward SRC and its complications.

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↻ Editorial

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Practice Current

We invited neurologists, resident and fellow trainees, and advanced practice providers to respond to our survey on the topic “When do you stop AEDs in patients with genetic generalized epilepsies and in those with focal epilepsies?” and received 436 responses from over 60 countries! Explore this topic and others on our redesigned website: compare your practice with peers and see survey results displayed on an interactive world map.

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