Horner's Syndrome Induced by Atlantoaxial Instability in a Yorkshire Terrier Dog

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Introduction: Atlantoaxial instability is encountered most often in small breed dogs.

Materials and methods: A 9-month-old male Yorkshire terrier dog was presented because of tetraparesis and head tilt. Physical and neurologic examination, complete blood counts, serum-chemistry, radiography, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analysis were initiated.

Results: On radiographic findings, open fontanelle and atlantoaxial instability were detected. MRI revealed hydrocephalus and severe compression of spinal cord between C1 and C2 lesion. The following day, miosis, superficial corneal ulceration and blepharoplegia of right side were revealed in this patient. We suspected this sign is horner's syndrome induced by cervical myelopathy and managed with neck brace and medical therapy. After 3 weeks, clinical signs were improved.

Clinical relevance: This report demonstrated that atalantoaxial instability should cause horner's syndrome.

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