Traumatic intracranial pseudoaneurysm

Traumatic intracranial pseudoaneurysms are a rare but severe complication following arterial injury. Pseudoaneurysm formation can occur secondary to blunt or penetrating trauma or iatrogenic injury. We report a case of traumatic pseudoaneurysm secondary intracranial pressure monitoring. A 27-year-old man was involved in a motorcycle accident resulting in multiple intracranial hemorrhages. The patient underwent craniectomy and placement of an ICP monitor. 17 days later he developed dilation of his left pupil, with imaging demonstrating a new hemorrhage in the vicinity of the previous ICP monitor. A cerebral angiogram confirmed a left-sided distal M4 pseudoaneurysm which was treated by n-butyl cyanoacrylate embolization. Intracranial pseudoaneurysm formation following neurosurgical procedures is uncommon. Delayed intracranial hemorrhage in a region of prior intracranial manipulation, even following a procedure as 'routine' as placement of an ICP monitor, should raise the suspicion for this rare but potentially lethal complication ¹⁾

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Shah KJ, Jones AM, Arnold PM, Ebersole K. Intracranial pseudoaneurysm after intracranial pressure monitor placement. J Neurointerv Surg. 2014 Dec 17. pii: neurintsurg-2012-011410.rep. doi: 10.1136/neurintsurg-2014-011410.rep. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 25520265.

From:

https://neurocirugiacontemporanea.es/wiki/ - Neurocirugía Contemporánea ISSN 1988-2661

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Last update: 2025/05/04 00:04

