Dear Sir,

We read the recent article entitled 'Isolated cortical vein thrombosis: a widely variable clinicoradiological spectrum' by Xue et al. [1], published in European Neurology, with great interest. The authors evaluated the variable clinicoradiological spectrum of isolated cortical vein thrombosis, which is a clinicoradiological diagnostic challenge. They concluded that neurological features and brain imaging findings of isolated cortical vein thrombosis are highly variable, which might be partly responsible for the underestimation of isolated cortical vein thrombosis. Moreover, the authors stated that direct signs of thrombosis on computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) may be subtle or missing, and even digital subtraction angiography may fail to detect them because of a variation in number, size and location of the cortical veins. At this point, we would like to make a suggestion regarding the usefulness of susceptibility-weighted imaging (SWI) which is a relatively new MRI sequence and MR venography, particularly in the acute phase of thrombosis. The persisting decreased signal on SWI is generated by the increased amount of deoxyhemoglobin in the acute thrombus, SWI provides an early, clear and distinct signal drop within the thrombotic vein signal. However, due to the increased amount of deoxyhemoglobin in the acute thrombus, SWI provides an early, clear and distinct signal drop within the thrombotic vein in the early acute phase. The persisting decreased signal on SWI is generated by secondary accumulation of methemoglobin after a few days which is replaced by hemosiderin after several weeks [5].

Recently, SWI has been increasingly used in brain imaging especially in trauma, stroke and tumor patients and has been adopted in the routine brain MRI protocol in many institutions. We believe that this new imaging method can be useful to overcome the radiological diagnostic difficulty of the isolated cortical vein thrombosis.

Disclosure Statement

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.
References


