

Abstract

Subclavian steal syndrome is a constellation of symptoms that arise when subclavian artery stenosis occurs proximal to the origin of the vertebral artery resulting in retrograde flow in the ipsilateral vertebral artery. Mesenteric ischaemia results from inadequate blood supply to the intestine to meet metabolic demands. This case describes a 33-year-old woman who presented with syncope, vertigo, left upper limb claudication and mesenteric angina. On examination, diminished left radial pulses, unequal blood pressure between the upper limbs and a cervical bruit were noted. CT angiogram revealed occlusion of the left subclavian artery, occlusion of the coeliac trunk, and multiple atherosclerotic plaques. Extensive atherosclerosis was found to be the aetiology of the patient's symptoms. The patient was started on antiplatelets, and high-intensity statins and a carotid-subclavian bypass procedure was planned.