

Analysis of Causative Factors and Effects to Cognitive Functions of Cerebral White Matter Changes

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Background : The aim of this study was to identify causative factors for cerebral white matter changes on MRI and relationship between cerebral white matter changes and cognitive function. **Methods** : The patients who were admitted to the Department of Neurology ward or visited to outpatient clinic at the Chungnam National University Hospital from September 1999 to July 2000 were selected. All patients underwent brain MRI with 1.5 T for determination of degree and distribution of cerebral white matter changes. The patients were evaluated their cognitive function with the Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE) and the Modified Mini-Mental State Examination (3MS), which has more extensive and detailed tool for fluency and memory domains of cognition compared with the MMSE. Statistical analyses were performed to identify whether there was difference in causative factors and cognitive status between patients with white matter change and patients without white matter changes. **Results** : White matter changes were significantly more common in patients with hypertension and women. On correlation analyses, hypertension and aging were significantly related with cerebral white matter changes. General cognitive status in patients with white matter changes were worse than those of patients without white matter changes and of control group. Frontal lobe functions like fluency, attention, and visuo-constructive function were especially affected by white matter changes on the 3MS. **Conclusions** : Hypertension, female sex and aging may contribute to the development of cerebral white matter changes. Cerebral white matter changes may be responsible for the general cognitive decline.

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Key Words : White matter change, Cognitive function, Modified Mini-Mental State Examination

Garcia⁴
Longstreth Teri⁵
가 가 . ,
가
1-3
Pantoni^{4,5} 가
6

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1. 1999 9 2000 6 50
 가 1)
 2) , 3) 가 , 4)
 146 109
 109 65.2
 (50~88) 가 64 , 가 45
 8 (0~18)

mmHg

140/90

가 >240 mg/dl (>200 mg/dl) 가
 가

2. 1) 가
 (Mini-Mental State Examination : MMSE)
 Modified Mini-Mental State Examination(3MS)
^{7,8}
 MMSE
 3MS
 . 3MS

2) 가

2
 General electric 1.5 T scanner
 T1 (TR 666 msec: TE 10 msec)
 T2 (TR 3500 msec: TE 100 msec) 5mm
 가 Scheltens scale

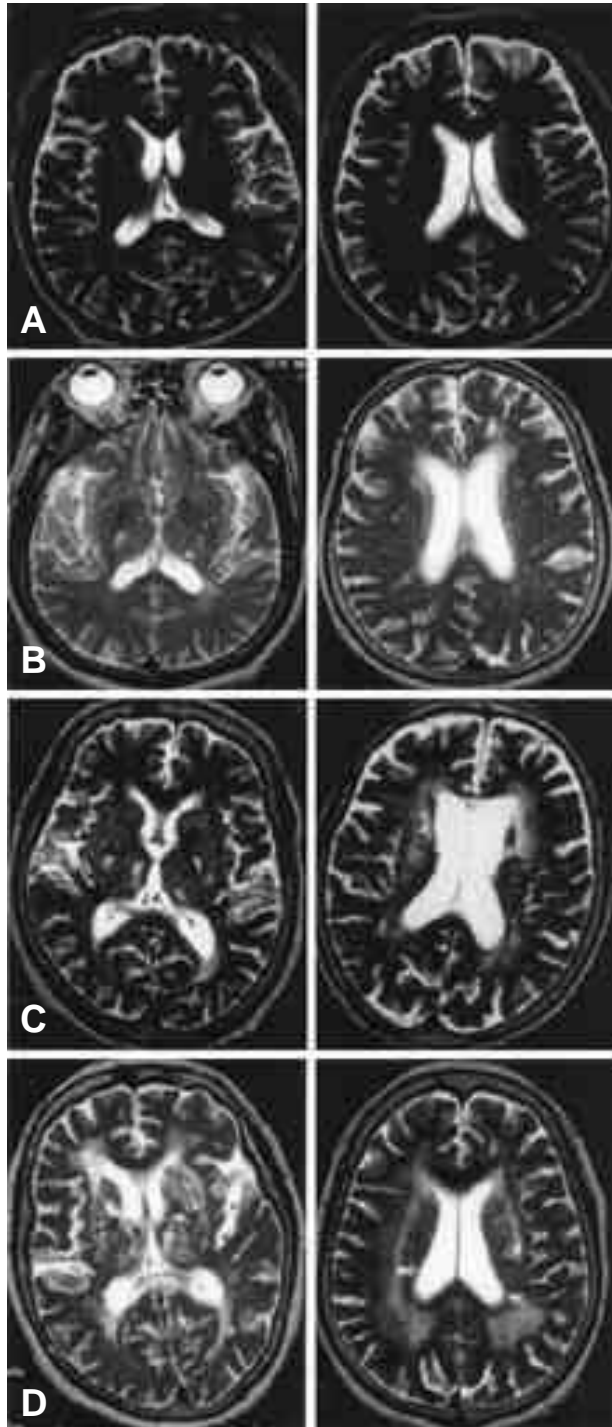


Figure 1. Illustrated cases of Sheltens scale of white matter change. (A) BGH 0/0, PVH 0/0, DWMH 0/0, (B) BGH 1/1, PVH 1/1, DWMH 1/1, (C) BGH 3/3, PVH 1/1, DWMH 3/3, (D) BGH 6/6, PVH 2/2, DWMH 6/6.

9
 Hyperintensity: DWMH) (Deep White Matter
 Hyperintensity: BGH), (Basal Ganglia 3)
 cular Hyperintensity: PVH) (Periventricular
 0 6
 48 0 2 t-
 12 Pearson
 3 mm
 5 1 5 2
 6
 (cap)
 (band) SPSS 9.0
 5 mm 1 2 p value <0.05
 (Fig. 1).
 Scheltens scale 10
 , 10
 10 67 42 30

Table 1. Neurologic diseases of subjects

Diseases	No(%) of patient	
	WMC(+)	WMC(-)
Lacunar infarction	13(31)	19(29)
Multiple lacunar infarction	14(33)	6(9)
Vertebrobasilar insufficiency	5(12)	15(22)
Borderzone infarction	5(12)	1(2)
Transient ischemic attack	1(2)	5(8)
Intracranial hemorrhage	1(2)	2(3)
Degenerative disease	2(5)	5(8)
Mild cognitive impairment	-	3(5)
Seizure disorder	1(2)	2(3)
Cranial nerve palsy	-	2(3)
Headache	-	2(3)
Peripheral vertigo	-	2(3)
Depression	-	1(2)
Meningitis	-	1(2)
Syncope	-	1(2)
Total	42	67

WMC, White Matter Change; (+), >10 Scheltens scale; (-), 10 Scheltens scale; No, number

Table 2. Comparison of clinical characteristics between patients with and without white matter changes

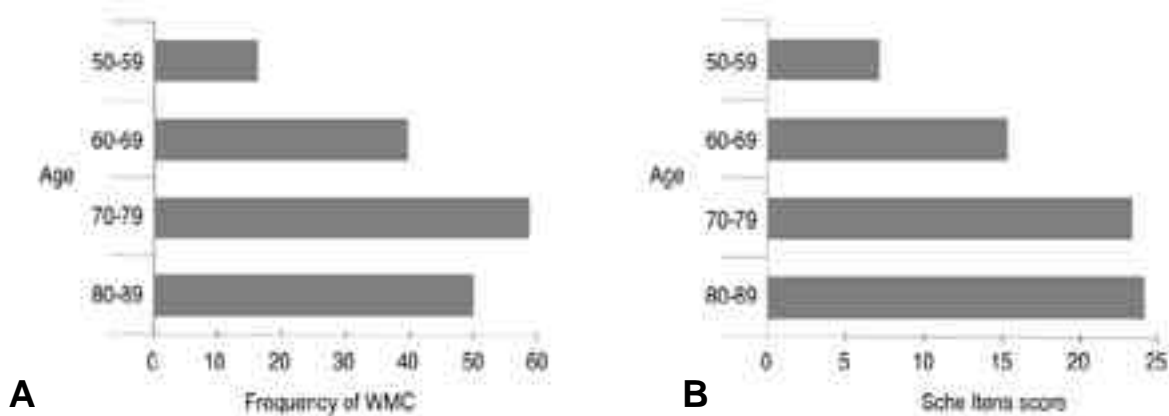
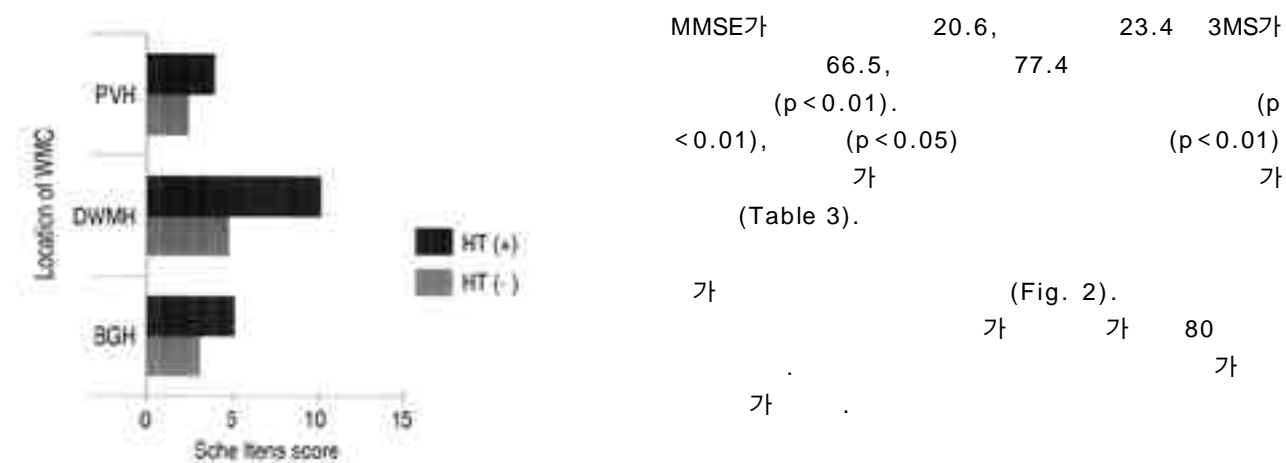
	WMC(+) (n=42)	WMC(-) (n=67)	p value
Age (mean ± SD)	67.8±7.4	63.6±8.9	<0.05
Sex (M:F)	1 : 1.2	1.9 : 1	<0.05
Education (years ± SD)	6.8 ± 6.0	8.7 ± 5.5	ns
Diabetes mellitus (%)	30.9	23.8	ns
Hypertension (%)	71.4	41.8	<0.01
Hyperlipidemia (%)	14.3	10.5	ns
Heart disease (%)	9.5	8.9	ns

WMC, White Matter Change; (+), >10 Scheltens scale; (-), 10 Scheltens scale; No, number, ns, not significant; SD, standard deviation

Table 3. Comparison of cognitive characteristics between patients with and without white matter changes

	WMC(+)	WMC(-)	p value
	(mean±SD)		
MMSE	20.6± 5.9	23.4± 5.1	<0.01
3MS	66.5±19.8	77.4±16.2	<0.01
Attention	3.8± 2.3	5.0± 1.7	<0.01
Visuoconstruction	6.9± 3.2	8.6± 2.0	<0.01
Fluency	5.7± 3.0	7.1± 2.5	<0.05
Memory	9.8± 5.5	11.0± 5.7	ns
Language	13.0± 2.3	13.6± 1.8	ns

WMC, White Matter Change; (+), >10 Scheltens scale; (-), 10 Scheltens scale; No, number; ns, not significant; SD, standard deviation.

**Figure 2A.** Frequency of white matter change according to age (**B**) Scheltens score according to age**Figure 3.** Degree of regional white matter change according to hypertension

MMSE가 20.6, 23.4 3MS가 66.5, 77.4 (p<0.01). (p<0.01), (p<0.05) (p<0.01) 가 가 가 (Table 3). 가 (Fig. 2). 가 가 80 가 가 가 가 가 가 (Table 2). 가 가 가 MMSE 가 가 가 가 가 가 가

Table 4. Multivariate analysis of cognitive function according to location of white matter change

	PVH		DWMH		BGH	
	RC	p value	RC	p value	RC	p value
MMSE	-.48	.00	.05	.80	.02	.87
3MS	-1.72	.00	.12	.52	.07	.56
Attention	-.20	.00	-.07	.70	.07	.57
Fluency	-.24	.00	-.01	.41	.08	.53
Visuoconstruction	-.27	.00	-.28	.15	.13	.37
Memory	-.32	.25	7.99E-02	.42	2.02E-03	.99
Language	-.05	.78	-4.81E-02	.00	.23	.09

PVH, Periventricular Hyperintensity; DWMH, Deep White Matter Hyperintensity; BGH, Basal Ganglia Hyperintensity; MMSE, Mini-Mental State Examination; 3MS, Modified Mini-Mental State Examination; RC, regression coefficient

(Table 4).

가

가

MMSE 3MS MMSE
 가 가 MMSE
 65 27~38% 11,12 가 가 20 3MS
 가 가 13 , , , ,
 가 가 50 가 10~20 MMSE 3MS
 가 가 80 가 가 7,8
 80 가 가 가 가
 (4) 가 21,22
 가 5,14 U- 가
 가 15,16 가
 가 가 Groot 14
 4,11,12,17,18
 가 18,19
 가 Breter 11
 가 가 Raija
 Ylikoski 23 Almquist 24
 가 가
 가 4
 가 25
 (dorsolateral prefrontal circuit),
 (lateral orbitofrontal circuit),

(anterior cingulate circuits)가

가

가

26,27

가

(frontal cortex-subcortical circuit)

가

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