5.14.8. Systemic Conditions (VIII): Neuro-Ophthalmic Disorders Associated With Pregnancy

Introduction

- conditions occurring with greater frequency/ exacerbated during pregnancy (or postpartum period)
  - cerebral venous thrombosis
  - pituitary apoplexy
  - posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES)
  - lymphocytic hypophysitis
- tumors that undergo expansion during pregnancy
  - pituitary macroadenomas
  - meningiomas
  - orbital hemangiomas
  - choroidal hemangiomas

Lymphocytic Hypophysitis

- rare
- autoimmune inflammation of the pituitary gland
  - lymphocytic infiltrate
    - can heal with minimal sequelae or progress to fibrosis
  - various degrees of pituitary dysfunction
    - ± permanent hypopituitarism
- clinical presentation
  - acute-onset diabetes insipidus
  - chiasmal visual field defects
  - may mimic a pituitary tumor
  - diagnosis should be considered if these symptoms and signs occur during pregnancy
- imaging/endocrine testing are not specific
- surgical treatment if vision is compromised

Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome

- clinical presentation
  - headache
  - altered mental status
  - seizures
  - visual disturbances
    - transient visual loss
    - scotomata
    - photopsias
    - dimming of vision
- MRI
  - edema involving the white matter of the cerebral posterior regions
    - especially parieto-occipital lobes
    - ± frontal and temporal lobes
- etiology
  - acute hypertension
  - preeclampsia/eclampsia
  - immunosuppressive drugs
    - cyclosporine
    - tacrolimus
- prognosis
  - abnormalities visible on MRI are reversible
  - visual prognosis is usually excellent

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