



정 필 옥

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## Clinical approach to patients with thunderclap headache

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Thunderclap headache (TCH) is a sudden and severe headache that reaches maximum intensity within a minute. Numerous etiologies for TCH have been identified, with the most common etiologies being subarachnoid hemorrhage. Reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome (RCVS) is a rare but increasingly recognized disorder presenting with recurrent TCH. RCVS can be developed spontaneously or related to an exogenous trigger. The syndrome typically follows a benign course; however, RCVS may result in disability or death in a small minority of patients secondary to complications such as ischemic stroke, intracranial hemorrhage, or cortical subarachnoid hemorrhage. Therefore, patients presenting with TCH must be promptly and properly evaluated to rule out underlying disorders. After excluding secondary causes, primary TCH could be diagnosed as a last resort.

**Key Words:** Thunderclap headache, Reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome, Primary headache

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