CSF Flow Dynamics—Is There a Need for Normative Imaging Data?

Jitender Saini¹ Shikha Awasthi¹

¹ Department of Neuroimaging and Interventional Radiology, National Institute for Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

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It was with great enthusiasm that we read the article titled “CSF flow parameters in normal subjects above forty years.”¹ It evokes a great deal of thought process and critical reflection in the utility of having normative cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) flow data. This study further gains importance in the Indian context as we do not have CSF flow normograms for our local population.

CSF plays a crucial role in cushioning the brain, maintaining normal intracranial pressure, and supporting neurological functions. CSF spaces in the brain include ventricles, cerebral and spinal subarachnoid spaces and they are present at dynamic equilibrium with cerebral blood and brain parenchyma. Any alteration in one is compensated by increase or decrease in other components.² In recent years, knowledge about the role of CSF and CSF dynamics in various neurological disorders has increased due to new inventions in the field of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in the form of phase-contrast studies.

Phase-contrast MRI is a study that provides both qualitative and quantitative information about CSF dynamics and is useful for the evaluation of Chiari I malformations, normal pressure hydrocephalus, aqueductal stenosis, and syringohydromyelia. The CSF flow parameters are altered in all the above conditions, as well as in other conditions such as meningitis and cerebral edema.³,⁴ However, there is no normative data to correlate the altered flow dynamics in Indian population, which this study aims to acquire. The authors have acquired five flow-related parameters and have grouped them according to decades.

This study contributes vital insights into the age-related variations in CSF flow parameters, emphasizing the importance of establishing normative data. The linear increase with age, coupled with decade-specific medians, provides a more accurate reference for conditions like normal pressure hydrocephalus. The findings underscore the need for nuanced interpretation, considering age and sex, in clinical assessments relying on CSF flow dynamics. Generating normative data are crucial for advancing diagnostic precision and enhancing the potential of CSF flow parameters in monitoring and prognosis after treatment. However, the sample size studied was small and hence more studies are required in the future to ascertain the normative data for Indian population for better correlation of CSF flow studies.

Conflict of Interest
None declared.

References


Address for correspondence
Jitender Saini, MD, DM, Department of Neuroimaging and Interventional Radiology, National Institute for Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bengaluru 560029, Karnataka, India (e-mail: jsaini76@gmail.com).

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