Migraine and Neurological Disorders Comorbidity—Consideration of Sinus Hypoxic Nitric Oxide Theory for Migraine

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Abstract

Migraine is an extremely common disorder and has co morbidity with many neurological illnesses. After reviewing the neurophysiological and biochemical basis of the research findings and hypotheses of migraine and other neurological disorders I present to the best of my knowledge the first para nasal sinus nitric oxide mediated neurobiophysical explanation for many neurological disorders. The etiology of neurological illnesses is mainly due to neurotransmitter imbalance, neurodegenerative changes acute and chronic inflammation, effects of hypo and hyper endothelial and neuronal NO levels and genetic predisposition. According to this respiratory sinus nitric oxide based description those effects are mainly brought on by the sinorhinogetic impulse distribution of the central nervous system except genetic predisposition. Moreover, avoidance of the central neuronal influence and stress to the brain in early childhood or young age caused by migraine would help to prevent the progression or aggravation of the neurological illnesses. Indeed this article explains a new pathophysiological initiation between sino rhinogenic nitric oxide effects and neurological disorders and provides an etiologically important Neurovascular impulse generating pathway to cause or aggravate neurological disorders. Therefore the patients who are clinically suspected of having migraine headache and neurological disorders or along with susceptible neurological disorders should receive comprehensive sinorhinological examination and evaluation based on the sinus hypoxic nitric oxide phenomena. A standard surgical and medical management of migraine that links with the sinus hypoxic nitric oxide theory are suggested to be used for even neurological disorder as a new treatment of neurological illnesses and to prevent the dysfunction of central specific neural circuits.

Keywords: Migraine, Neurological disorders; Sinus hypoxic nitric oxide theory

Introduction

Migraine is a common neurological disorder and affects about 15% of people in developed countries [1], which is co-morbid with many neurological illness such as stroke [2], epilepsy [3], motion sickness [4], vertigo [5], balance disorder [6] and benign intracranial hypertension [7], Narcolepsy [8]. Therefore revealing the exact pathophysiological mechanism between them is of great value in the management of both disorders. Many explanations have been suggested for pathogenesis of the co-morbidity.

Among them cerebral ischemia due to migraine is caused by Cortical Spreading Depression (CSD) as a direct cause. Moreover endothelia dysfunction, overuse of anti-migraine drugs and genetic factors are proposed as the main indirect causes [9]. For epilepsy it has been proposed that the connecting point is CSD in addition to genetic components [10]. The neuro pathological explanation for migraine co morbidity with neurological illnesses that is due to shearing of common receptors, neuronal tracks and some pathology of blood vessels has been put forward. However none of these facts can explain well what the exact common mechanism is which underlies the migraine and neurological co-morbidity so that it can be treated using the control of migraine pathophysiology. This was mainly because the exact common pathophysiology for migraine has still uncertain. However the Hypoxic Nitric Oxide Theory [SHNOT] for pathophysiology of migraine [11] can be considered as an additional cause or aggregative pathophysiological mechanism and thereby introduce a new medical and surgical approach for the management of such neurological illnesses. These evidences are emerging that migraine is not solely a headache disorder. Moreover this review will summarize the salient evidence suggesting a comorbid association between migraine, neurological disorders and the hypoxic nitric oxide theory for their comorbidity.

Sinus Hypoxic Nitric Oxide Theory for Migraine

To explain the scientific background of the topic, research findings on pathophysiology of migraine, neurological disorders and para-nasal and nasal Nitric Oxide (sNO) [12] in human beings as well as animals were reviewed. In this article Sinus Hypoxic Nitric Oxide Theory (SHNOT) is mainly considered. It is hypothesized that diffused sNO (dsNO) in the nasal and para nasal mucosa is a main causative and an initiative molecule for migraine headache. This has been used here to explain the association between migraine and neurological disorders. Moreover the SHNOT explains that diffused NO cause’s repetitive or intermittent activation of the peripheral trigeminal sensory nerve and induces shear stress in the mucosal blood vessels initiating the neurovascular pathophysiology of migraine attack [11]. The relative hypoxia to paranasal sinuses causes to induce increased production of sNO [13]. The nerve impulses of the trigeminal sensory nerve induced by sNO are projected at trigeminal nucleus caudalis to the central nervous system. According to the hypothesis Cortical Spreading Depression (CDS) is brought by low brain magnesium, abnormal release of excitatory neurotransmitter and low mono aminergic 5HT projection

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from the dorsal raphe due to the consequence of the shear stress and the influence of the trigeminal central neuronal impulses [11]. Thus it is named sinus hypoxic nitric oxide theory (SHNOT) for migraine. The existence of its pathophysiology in human beings including migraine is named here as sinus hypoxic nitric oxide phenomena (SHNOP) opening a new direction in surgical and medical management of the neurological illnesses.

Evidence based Supportive Studies for SHNOT for Migraine

This hypothesis can be tested with the currently available NO research methods and the standard surgical and medical management and is supported by the strong scientific evidence of important research findings as follows.

Physiological and biological roles of NO

NO as a potent vasodilator and neurotransmitter has shown its high ability to diffuse through the cell membrane [14,15] and it can repeatedly cross cell membranes during its half-life [16]. Unlike other neurotransmitters NO can bind directly to guanylyl cyclase in the cytoplasm and activates it [17]. Moreover, NO appears to carry information on neural activity and release other neurotransmitters such as CGRP, glutamate, n NO, etc. across the synaptic junction [18-20]. Therefore diffused sNO would have similar property to give rise neuronal impulse and vascular dilation within nasal and para nasal sinus mucosa in susceptible conditions.

Recovery from migraine by reducing the synthesis of sNO

Hypoxia is the potent inducer of sNO synthesis [21] which can be caused by various factors such as inflammation, anomalies, female hormones, pathological and environmental factors. These in turn cause or contribute to nasal and para nasal edema or inflammation leading relative hypoxia to the para nasal sinuses [11]. In this line, an approach of relieving hypoxia would cure migraine or reduce the number of migraine attack according to the SHNOT/P. This argument is supported by two successful surgical studies as follows. There were 78% of totally asymptomatic migraine patients [22-24] after sinorhinological operation. Furthermore it has been shown that all 75% of patients with migraine were free of symptoms and 20% had improved by 50% with duration and frequency of the attack after sinus hypoxia relieving similar surgical approach [25].

Intranasal treatment for acute migraine attack

According to the hypothesis sNO can generate peripheral trigeminal impulse begun at intranasal and sinus cavity. In this line the neuronal impulse could be stopped by administration of intranasal NO scavenger and local anesthetics. The treatment with local anesthetics-intranasal lidocaine [26] and cocaine [22-24] and NO scavenger-intranasal hydroxyl cobalamin [27] and sumatriptan [28] has been shown that they were effective in relieving acute migraine.

Intranasal gases can stimulate trigeminal nerve pathway

It has been shown that application of a few gases into the nasal cavity could generate trigeminal neuronal impulse though NO has not still been used for the test. For instances of MRI changes similar to trigeminal stimulation in migraine patients could be observed following the intranasal administration of nociceptive stimulus using the application of ammonia (NO₃⁻) [29] and sensory stimulus using CO₂ [30]. When these gases are compared with the physiological and biological role of sNO it would directly and easily stimulate neurovascular compartment of the mucosa generating trigeminal impulses and the shear stress in the blood vessels.

sNO can diffuse through respiratory epithelium

Furthermore it has been proven that sNO could diffuse through respiratory epithelium in the lung and it can dilate lung blood vessels and increase oxygen absorption [31]. In this line, it is obvious that sNO could diffuse through the respiratory epithelium in the nasal and sinus cavities and activate the neurovascular compartment in the mucosa.

Evidences of Migraine and other Neurological Disorders Co-morbidity

The relationship between migraine and neurological disorders has been repeatedly reported in many publications without clear outcome and a clear plan of the proper management of the co morbidity influences. There for the exploration of actual pathophysiology between migraine and neurological disorder co morbidity is important. In addition to those, in this review following five sub topics are firstly going to be discussed so that one could widely understand the co-morbidity between migraine and neurological disorders.

Epidemiological evidence

It is not uncommon that migraine coexists with neurological disorders because of the high prevalence of migraine. However there is a strong association with striking similarities existing between the epidemiological characteristics of migraine and some neurological disorders. In fact a particular association between epilepsy and basilar type of migraine has been found [32,33]. In addition migraine and epilepsy has also been reported to occur with migraine and hemicranias epileptic [34,35]. Moreover the research data indicates that migraine and epilepsy are strongly associated, independent of seizure type, etiology, age at onset, or family history of epilepsy. For instance migraine to age 40 was 24% in profanes with epilepsy, 23% in relatives with epilepsy, and 12% in relatives without epilepsy. This pattern of results is indicated that it is inconsistent with the hypothesis of a shared genetic susceptibility to migraine and epilepsy [36].

On the other hand, where the causes for migraine and stroke comorbidity is concerned, the genetic component, over use of anti-migraine drugs, cardiovascular risk factors and migraine ischemic stroke pathway has been proposed by some authors [37,38]. However about half of the ischemic stroke in young adults that have no detectable cause is around 0.5% to 1.5% of all ischemic stroke [39,40]. In narcotopic patients migraine prevalence was twofold to fourfold increase and it was amounted to 44.4% in women and 28.3% in men [40,41]. When the most common vascular symptoms motion sickness is investigated, it was reported by 30% of patient with migraine [4]. Thus these epidemiological evidence indicate that pathophysiological pathway between the neurological disorders and migraine are similar or interrelated which must be considered more rather than the high prevalence of migraine among neurological disorders.

Pharmacological evidence

Seizure generation and spread is mediated by synaptically released glutamate acting on AMPA receptors, whereas triggering of CSD depends on NMDA receptors [42] and spread does not require synaptic transmission. This is because some antiepileptic drugs (e.g., sodium valproate, topiramate) prevent the occurrence of migraine attack [43]. This supports the view that neuronal hyper excitability is an initiating event in both conditions. In addition tricyclic antidepressants used in migraine prophylaxis cause to reduce seizure threshold leading...
to risk of seizure attack in some epileptic patients. On the other hand stroke associated with migraine treatments such as ergots or trip tans is rare, and but it is usually associated with special circumstances such as concomitant thrombogenic conditions [44]. In addition the effects of over use of migraine specific drugs such as triptans and ergotamine or hormonal contraceptive drugs have associated with an increased risk by ischemic stroke events [32,45]. These evidence reveal that anti migraine drugs can made the comorbid relationship other than their pathophysiological connections.

In migraine prophylaxis cinnarzine (CIN) -L-type calcium channel blocker has early onset effects [37,46-48] and it can directly inhibit vestibular hair cells stimulation and also has antiinflammatic actions [49]. Therefore, CIN is a good for treatment of migraine with vertigo. Moreover tricyclic antidepressants or beta-blockers has been reported that they are highly effective in non specific migraine-associated vertigo [37,49]. Nitric oxcid synthase inhibitors could inhibit the endothelial NOS and neuronal NOS to attenuate spontaneous migraine attack [49]. Then the propagation of nerve impulses through the trigeminal nerve and vascular spasm through the arterial system are abolised. Furthermore, NOS inhibitors have been used to improve headache pain scores in spontaneous attacks of migraine [50]. Moreover it has been known that NO has involved in many neurological disorders [18]. These highlight that the comorbidity could arise through molecular and receptor level.

On the other hand as there are some cognitive difficulties in Multiple Sclerosis (MS) patients, cognitive function reducing anti migraine drug like topiramate and Binarzine should be avoided in use [51]. In addition migraine prophylaxis drug like beta-blockers induces depression. Therefor the drugs are not good for both migraine and MS patients who are risk in depression [52]. However as tricyclic anti depression relieves neurogenic pain that can be used in the two disorders. These pharmacological evidences reveal that some of the pharmac molecules and receptor level evidences support for the migraine and neurological disorders comorbidity. But the drug interaction in those condition should be considered seriously when the association is strong and harmful effects.

**Genetic and acquired mal function of brain tissues**

Migraine and epilepsy may be due to common genetic and molecular substrates e.g. familial hemiplegic migraine [53]. Furthermore some neurological illnesses are increasingly linked with malfunction of brain tissue that affected by both genetic and environment influences. On the other hand both migraine and stroke are found to be in some inherited disorders such as hereditary endotheliopathy and cerebral retinal vasculopathy [54]. In addition it has been mention that migraine and Multiple Sclerosis (MS) has shared genetic or environmental factors leading to a higher likelihood of both conditions occurring in the same individual. Moreover narcolepsy may be brought by the hypocretin (orexin) receptor 2 gene which causes genetic narcolepsy in several animal species and in humans [55,56] and associates with migraine. Interestingly according to SHNOT migraine can run through family via genetics that may mainly contribute to make the nasal and paranasal anatomy [19] that could be corrected easily rather than other non- correctable genetic influence.

**Objective investigative evidences**

There are a few successful sinorhinological surgical studies that relieve migraine headache totally and partially [22-25] but it is not investigated for the comorbidity. Following case report as objective investigative evidence would help to understand the comorbid influence and therapeutic value. A post-surgical follow up of a 31 years old male patient with neurological disorders who had under gone a sinorhinological surgery was reported [57] as follows He was diagnosed as having migraine with aura and had history of increased in number of migraine attack for a period two years. This time he had presented to medical ward with history of left side weakness of body, reduced hearing and vision of that side for one day and sever migraine head ache for two days. However, he had been investigated for left side weakness of body and sinorhinological cause for headache because his symptoms of headache were not response to the existence drug management. His blood tests for inflammatory vascular disease were normal and CT scan was found to have an infarction of right side posterior limb of internal capsule in the brain. In the parasal sinus view of the CT there were hyper trophy of inferior turbinate, right side small nasal cavity and nasal septal deviation to right side (Figure 2). Then under adequate protection of prevention of further infarction he was later undergone a surgical procedure for sinorhinological pathology for head ache, which include a reduction of the bilateral hyper trophy of inferior turbinates, resection of anomalies in the nasal cavity and septoplasty. After the surgical treatment, his migraine attacks were subsided without any anti-migraine medication. Moreover no headache was identified after he was followed up for one year and the neurological weakness also improved with time. This data has proved that the surgical approach would relive the hypoxia and reducing the NO absorptive surface areas. Furthermore it may be proposed as a successful for treatment for migraine and prevention of further deterioration of stroke. In addition this right side infarction and more sinus hypoxic anomalies in the right side of the CT scan may direct us to think of a correlation between SHNOP and the infraction. According to this SHNOT hypothesis it can be suggested that more sinorhinogenic impulse from right side of paranasal sinus would develop thrombosis of the small arteries that supply to the area of internal capsule giving rise the infarction. By enlarge this finding supports migraine and stroke co-morbidity and rhinological therapeutic value for the neurological illnesses.

**Neuro pathophysiological evidence**

The pathophysiology of migraine predicts that there are central neuronal dysfunctions including, increased grey matter changes in some regions and decreased in others, dysfunction of neurotransmitter track, altered pain modulatory system, neuronal degeneration in the central nervous system and changes of brain blood flow and vascular integrity. These may indicate that the association could badly affect to the neurological illnesses. In addition in this sub topic, acute and chronic stress, abnormal sleep pattern, central sensitization, neuronal nitric oxide (nNO) roles in neurological disorders are going to be explained on migraine pathophysiology. These would help once to understand that one way of association of migraine and neurological illnesses is due to more pathological effects of the illness rather than its high prevalence.

**Dysfunction of main neurotransmitter projections:** Dysfunction of main neurotransmitters could be explained due to the possibility of the central neuronal effect caused by migraine pathophysiology [58]. According to some migraine theory, the nociceptive impulses of trigeminal second order neuron are modulated by descending cortical inhibitory systems [59] impinge with serotonin neuron [60-63]. As a result of that it leads to deplete central serotonin causing dysregulation of central serotonin levels [64]. In fact serotonin deficiency is found as increased pain sensation in many neurological disorders [65].Interestingly serotonergic neurons in the central neuron system impinge on many other neurons such as central cholinergic, dopaminergic, noradrenergic and GABAergic neurons [66]. In addition
deficiency of serotonin causes to release the brakes on dopamine (DA) and noradrenaline (NA) neuron held by serotonin leading to development of DA, glutamate and NA neurotransmitter tracks [62,63]. It means that dysfunction of the serotoninergic track caused by migraine pathophysiology that in turn affects those neuronal connections or neuro circuits linking with the pathology of other neurological illnesses. Acute and chronic stress to the central nervous system: This can be caused by migraine headache itself. For instances sympathetic hypo function, hyper activity of the cranial parasympathetic nerve, lower levels of noradrenaline in the Extra Cerebral Spinal Fluid (ECSF) would emphasize the association of stress due to migraine in the [67,68]. Moreover increased urinary nitric oxide metabolites and lipid peroxidation in migraine patients reveal that there was an increase in the availability of oxidative stress [69]. Therefore these changes due to the stress could alter central neurotransmitter (DA, NA, 5HT) levels [70] contributing to induce or aggravate neurological disorders.

Abnormal sleep pattern: Pathology of migraine may affect the sleep cycle in different ways such as lack of sleep, somnambulism, night terror and narcolepsy [71]. Moreover hypothalamic involvement in migraine has been observed in disturbance to sleep, alertness and wakefulness [72]. Interestingly, abnormal sleep cycle contributes to alter the functions of the 3-HT nerve of the dorsal raphe nucleus and involves DA neurons in the ventral segmental area, nucleus accumbens and forebrain [73]. Furthermore glucocorticoid, prolactin, melatonin [74] and orexin [75] in the central nervous system have been altered by the sleep disorders induced by migraine. On the other hand these changes can also alter the sleep cycle [76] leading to increased wake fullness, or reduction of sleep that can be observed in and cause to aggravate neurological disorders.

Central sensitization: This condition of migraine could be brought by the continuous or intermittent trigeminal sensory nerve impulses in migraine, which can generate strong action potential in the central nervous system and develops central sensitization [77,78] which in turn facilitates to persist chronic migraine and could be a factor to aggravate existence neurological disorders. Hyper excitability and enhanced responsiveness of the cerebral cortex: This may occur in both migraine with aura and migraine without aura due to alteration of energy metabolism, high plasma concentration in ion calcium, low brain magnesium, abnormal release of excitatory neurotransmitter and low mono aminergic 5HT projection from the dorsal raphe [79,80]. The latter three mechanisms have already been explained in SHNOT/P. On the other hand higher excitability in brain would favor CSD. The neuronal and glial cells despoliation in CSD initiate the release of neural proteases which can affect abnormal brain function [81,82]. Glutamate release could be brought about by elevation of astrocyte internal calcium by the influx of Ca2+ into neuronal tissue [82,63]. Interestingly serotonin is able to activate nNOS, leading to the generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and NO production. n NO metabolites such as ONOO- is a causative factor in neurotoxicity [86,87] (Figure 1). Thus SHNOP or migraine pathology could involve in the pathology of many neurological illnesses with respect to the degenerative changes or toxic effect in the neuronal system due to the effect of peroxynitrate toxicity. It also has been found that peroxynitrate involves in the pathology of Parkinson’s disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis [18].

Shear Stress in the blood vessel: This phenomena due to migraine pathophysiology may induce ATP-independent transient nitric oxide release from vascular endothelium [88] where NO can be made 10 to 40 fold more endothelial NO (e NO) than needed to activate guanylate cyclase. Moreover such e NO can react with H2O2 leads to formation of peroxynitrate which is toxic molecule affecting biological component and may cause to cells necrosis, organ damaged and inflammation [18,88,89]. Thus in chronic migraine attack, there may be a higher level of formation of peroxynitrite which may damage the arterial endothelium and even smooth muscles cell in vulnerable and susceptible area of the blood vessels [90-92]. Finally its toxic damage would contribute [18] to develop vascular aneurism or stenosis of cranial arteries. At the end they may tend to rupture the blood vessels with or without hyper tension or develop infraction in the arteries. This may lead to nerve palsy when a small artery supply to single nerve or a massive stroke if larger arteries are affected.

A decreased level of plasma melatonin: A low level melatonin of the migraine population has been observed [93]. In fact melatonin secreted mainly by pineal gland involves in an important actions such as reducing and protecting from a direct and indirect oxidative damage. Thus it has the ability to protect neuronal cells against apoptosis [94,95]. Furthermore melatonin has an anti convulsant and depressive effects [95]. It means that migraine patients are more susceptible to develop oxidative damage, neuronal track dysfunction, hyper excitability brain and lower seizure thresholds due to decreased level of plasma melatonin.

The Mechanisms Contributed by Migraine Pathophysiology for Neurological Disorders

The pathophysiology of migraine has revealed that migraine is not just a headache disorder and is a complex neurological disease. Moreover the biological and physiological changes in migraine pathology as describe above can influence on central nervous system. This would make the path way between migraine and other neurological disorders comorbidity. Epilepsy

Epidemiological studies demonstrate that epilepsy and migraine are co morbid conditions [96]. Basic mechanisms of epilepsy are proposed in number of ways such as chromosomal disorder, traumatic brain injury, reduction of N-acetyl aspartate/creatinine ratio in the hippocampus epilepsy, reorganization of cortical circuits (barrel circuits) in response to cortical lesions, cortical malformation, hyper cortisolemia, astrocytes contribution to neuronal hyper excitability ,electrolyte imbalance and hypoglycemia, release of neurotransmitter glutamate (e.g-gliomas) causing disruption of ion homeostasis and hyper excitability in neighboring tissue [84]. In this line it is evident that migraine can be suggested that its pathology can facilitate as a trigger factor for epilepsy such as hyper cortisolemia, astrocytes contribution to neuronal hyper excitability, electrolyte imbalance,
Furthermore, CSD results in altered vascular permeability, driven in major intracranial vessels and neuronally mediated vasodilatation. Migraine with aura are a direct cause leading to sluggish blood flow, suggesting that the consequences of CSD of migraine or chronic cerebrovascular disease. In migraine induced infarction, it is mainly highlighted a possible association between migraine and infarction to cerebral tissue. This may in turn contribute to develop chronic pathological state will be suggested to be developed into chronic damage to vascular system tending to hemorrhagic infarction (HI) and to chronic inflammatory damage to (23) the central nervous system may be suggested to occur multiple sclerosis (MS). On the other hand, vestibular migraine (VM) could be precipitated by cerebral ischemia, contributing to high blood flow to the gland (24).

Release of glutamate. On the other hand, vascular thrombosis or lack of blood flow due to CSD in migraine attack might lead to ischemic infarction to cerebral tissue. This may in turn contribute to develop epilepsy due to cortical lesion.

Infarction and hemorrhage

Migraine headaches could be precipitated by cerebral ischemia, initially highlighted a possible association between migraine and cerebrovascular disease. In migraine induced infarction, it is mainly supposed that the consequences of CSD of migraine or chronic migraine with aura are a direct cause leading to sluggish blood flow in major intracranial vessels and neuronally mediated vasodilatation. Furthermore, CSD results in altered vascular permeability, driven in part by activation of matrix metalloproteinases (97) and hypoperfusion of small penetrating arteries (98) which could lead to hypoxic brain injury.

In addition, neurogenic inflammation, resulting from CSD and exogenous activation of the trigemino vascular system, causes the release of inflammatory cytokines, neuropeptides (e.g., calcitonin gene-related peptide, substance P and neurokinin A), and extravasations of plasma proteins (bradykinin and prostanoids) (99). Thus, migraine induced infarction could be caused by predisposing to coagulopathy such as intravascular thrombosis by up regulation of adhesive molecules and dehydration hyper viscosity, and vasodilatation caused by release of vasoactive substances such as activation of cytokines, vasoactive peptide and e NO (100). Moreover, it could be proposed that cytotoxic...
cell damage and gliosis caused by intra vascular calcium accumulation or glutamate release could be induced by frequent aura due to CSD in migraine patients.

On the other hand, in this background it can be suggested here that not only stroke due to ischemic infarction but also hemorrhagic infarction that could be happen due to migraine. It may be because the inflammatory process in chronic migraine attack may lead to chronic inflammation in the cranial blood vessels. Then such affected vessels would be susceptible to rupture in vulnerable status. In fact 15 to 30% of all stroke patients would be expected to have a past history of migraine [101]. Therefore it may be strongly suggested here that child and adult hood migraine should be paid a great attention because they will be more susceptible to give a risk in hemorrhagic or infarction stroke in young age as well as old age. However other causes of stroke must be excluded before making a diagnosis of complicated migraine. Moreover it should be considered that the neurological deficits in stroke or infarction should mimic the prior migrainous symptoms and follow a typical attack. On the other hand there are the variants of migraine such as hemiplegic migraine, basilar migraine, ophthalmologic migraine that may be due to relevant vascular arterial pathology induced by the pathology.

**Facial pain syndrome**

In this syndrome, pain in the facial area is often the presently complaints as it is associated with signs and symptoms of one or several cranial nerve lesions. There are many causes for facial pain syndrome such as inflammatory in origin, followed by neoplastic or vascular or infection or auto immunological disorder [102]. A common facial pain disorder is bell’s palsy is brought by inflammatory, infections, compressive and infiltrative causes [103]. Thus in this line migraine can also be proposed to be one cause for facial pain syndrome because the pathophysiology of migraine tends to give neurogenic inflammation and susceptible to develop infarction induced demyelination leading to give rise the neurological illness such as cranial mono neuropathies.

**Parkinson’s disease**

The cause of Parkinson’s disease is also exactly unknown and loss of cells in the substantial nigra is proposed as a cause for Parkinson’s disorders [104]. According coagulopathy of migraine it can strongly be suggested here that CSD can contribute does develop thrombosis in the blood vessel leading to develop infarctions due to prolong low blood flow to the substantial nigra and toxic neuronal damage. However some findings of Parkinson’s disorders may suggest a different role of the dopaminergic system in migraineurs with and without a family history of migraine [105].

**Benign Intracranial Hypertension (BICH)**

It was observed that there was a link between migraine and idiopathic intracranial hypertension [106]. In this condition, there is without any mass lesion or of hydrocephalus but patient will be raised intracranial hypertension due to cranial out flow obstruction as direct cause such as cortical venous thrombosis [107] or increase CSF secretion [108] and as indirect causes such as obesity, oral contraceptives, nalidixic acid, steroid withdrawal and endocrine dysfunction [109]. Chronic migraine or SHNOP can be suggested here as a cause or trigger factor for BICH because it may contribute to develop venous thrombosis and increase the inflammatory substances.

**Primary Empty Sella Syndrome (PES)**

PES is an uncommon developmental disease that was assumed to be occurred spontaneously and is characterized by herniation of subarachnoid space within the the sella turcica of the pituitary gland [110]. In addition to PES syringomyelia which was proposed due to the loss of shock absorbing capacity of the cisterna magna and subsequent increase of central canal wall pressure leads to syrinx formation in patients with Chiari I malformation [111,112] that can occur due to several steps after obstruction of CSF outflow within sub arachnoid space [113]. The same pathology for BICH could be applied here to explain the increased CSF pressure to give rise or as a contributory cause for the neurological disorders.

**Cerebral Venous Thrombosis (CVT)**

This could be brought by dehydration, inflammation, coagulation disorders, head trauma and malignant meningitis which lead to impair cerebral spinal fluid drainage [114]. Thus such patients are presented with headache, papilledema and impaired consciousness [114]. The inhibition of platelet aggregation and thrombosis formation, prevention of inflammation and oxidative damage and enhancement of endothelium dependent vaso relaxation are impaired [18,115] when there is low or defect in e NO production in cranial venues compartment. It could happen in increased number of attack and prolong attack of chronic migraine patients because of exhaustion of e NO production or reduce bio availability of e NO. Moreover the peroxynitrite production in the arterial compartment in susceptible migraine patients may also damage to the vascular endothelium and smooth muscles cells [116], up regulation of adhesive molecules in endothelial cells, neutrophil adhesion and stimulating platelet aggregation [18]. In this line the coagulate pathology of migraine can be suggested here to have more susceptible to aseptic and non-malignant CVT.

**Multiple Sclerosis (MS)**

The pathophysiology of migraine has already been hypothesized to involve in multiple sclerosis (MS) through CSD during migraine aura which cause to increase permeability to circulating T cells through the blood–brain barrier, and thereby allow to become sensitized to myelin [117]. On the other hand as there are some changes in cytokine expression during the CSD that may predispose to autoimmune disease in the CNS. Thus both mechanisms are capable to induce chronic CNS inflammatory lesions to develop MS [118].

**Motion sensitivity**

Motion sensitivity is reported by 30% of patient with migraine
which is the most common vascular symptoms of migraine. It has been proposed that the pathophysiology occurs in migraine brain stem nuclei which influence sensory inputs, cranial blood vessels trigeminal nociceptive pathway [4]. According to the migraine pathology, trigeminal ganglion provides sensory innervations with axons originating in 5HT 1B and 5HT 1D receptors. The reduction of the vertigo symptoms in anti-migraine treatment is probably due to the inhibition of vascular response created by migraine pathology [4]. Tryptophan depletion boosted dizziness, nausea, and the illusion of movement in controls to levels that approached those of migraineurs. Thus, the reduced brain serotonin activity may promote vestibular ocular disturbances during motion sickness and attacks of migraine [119]. The hyper excitability and increased responsiveness of neuronal system in migraine may develop or contribute other balance disorders.

**Narcolepsy, Cataplexy and Sleep disorders**

Narcolepsy and other sleep disorders can occur due to the dysfunction of orexigenic neurons [120] and in migraine patients as mentioned above. Orexin as a neuropeptide involves playing a critical role in narcolepsy which promotes wakefulness and inhibiting RAM sleep [73]. Moreover it has been said that dopamine, serotonin and cholinergic neurotransmitters dysfunction also contribute to the disorders [120]. Therefor lesion or any interference to these neurotransmitter tracks affects the wakefulness. In this line it can be suggested that narcolepsy, cataplexy and other sleep disorders can also be triggered or caused by the dysfunction of the neurotransmitter track [73] caused by SHNOP or migraine. Thus the neuro pathophysiology of these disorders are highlighting the comorbidity between migraine and sleep disorders [121]. However, one study said that there was no association between migraine and narcolepsy and cataplexy [41]. But other study said that migraine prevalence was twofold to fourfold increase in the narcoleptic patients and amounted to 44.4% in women and 28.3% in men [122]. In this way it could be said that alterations of sleep-wake cycle in narcolepsy may give such statistical evidence of high prevalence of migraine in patients with narcolepsy.

**Tumor genesis**

Though there are cases of patients with pituitary adenoma presented with classical migraine [123], no history has been found of association between migraine and tumor genesis. But the increase synthesis of n NO and inflammatory mediators in pathophysiology of migraine can be proposed that the pathology might involve in tumor genesis. For instances NO was found to stimulate GH-secreting adenomas [124] and the inflammatory mediators had been identified as a factor that could induce the adenoma [125] and cancer [122]. In addition oxidative stress and low melatonin level in migraine would also contribute to the tumor genesis. Thus in this line it can clearly be suggested here that high pituitary blood flow carrying inflammatory mediators, n NO, e NO and their metabolites in migraine pathology can directly or indirectly induce or aggravate pituitary adenoma as well as other tumors in the susceptible cranial tissues exposed to the mediators.

**Cluster headaches**

Cluster headaches had been completely cured by the rhino logical surgical operation that had removed the nasal and sinus anotis [22-24] and relived paranasal hypoxia indicating its etiological origin from the rhinosinogenic base. In addition there are strong evidence of comorbidities between cluster headache and migraine [126]. In this back ground it can be assumed that pathophysiology explained for migraine using SHNOT/P might be a primary cause to trigger the cluster headache. However it must be considered that there are secondary causes for cluster headache as well [127].

**Sinus headache and migraine**

It is important to understand the differences between pathophysiology between sinus headache and migraine. It is because some may confuse still to understand SHNOP for migraine and sinusitis. In fact it has been proven that sinus headache and migraine headache has78% of association [13]. This may indicate a common sinus hypoxic pathophysiological influences for both conditions according to SHNOP. Furthermore it is highlighted that NO production is within a range from 10% to 20% of oxygen to the sinuses in migraine [128]. In addition high sinus NO level had been found to precipitate sinusitis [129]. But on the other hand sinus NO production is depressed in sinusitis due to low activation of NOS enzymes [130]. Moreover when oxygen concentration below 10% it may increase tendency to develop sinusitis. By contrast with symptoms of migraine, sinusitis is associated with fever, nasal discharge, post nasal drip and radiological findings of sinusitis [131]. But migraine does not have such symptoms and can present without radiological findings of sinusitis and has been diagnosed according to IHS criteria [132].

Conclusively this pathophysiological association between migraine and neurological disorders would provide important massage in the management of the disorders. For instances, avoiding extra neuronal current to central nervous system by preventing or ameliorating the development of pathology of migraine would give some benefit in the management of neurological disorders.

**To complete the Migraine and Neurological Disorder Co-morbidity**

All migraine patients are not end up in epileptic or stroke or systemic sclerosis or other neurological disorders though some migraine patients may suffer from mild to moderate transient neurological symptoms such as balance disorder or drowsiness etc. This type of resistance to those disorders could be due to genetic stability and lack of neurovascular vulnerability such as less vascular involvement, non-trauma or lesions in the brain and lack of anomalies in brain tissue. In such stage migraine may be in the neurological disorders without influence to them. When such resistance is low or altered by some vulnerable factors, migraine can have bidirectional comorbidity or unidirectional comorbidity with the neurological disorders. Moreover it is obvious as seen in epidemiological evidence that neurological disorders are higher in CM (Chronic Migraine) and MA (Migraine with Aura) than in episodic and short periods of attack of migraine. This can be suggested that it is because the toxic effects of n NO metabolites, glutamate and calcium ion and prolonged neurotoxic effects to neuronal cells in CM attacks. Environmental factors that conspire to produce inefficient information processing in the circuits [133] can also be acquired after birth by various factors such as physical trauma, drugs, toxins and infections that can have an influence on the circuit and neural tissue to produce neurological illnesses [134]. Heterogeneity of neurological illnesses may also indicate these multi factorial causes that can mask co-morbidity between migraine and neurological disorders. It may be because they could damage the neuronal tracks more than what has been done by migraine pathophysiology. On the other hand patients with migraine pathophysiological they can present themselves to a physician without the symptoms of migraine headache but with other migraine symptoms [135]. This may be due to some reasons such as habituation of migraine headache [136], inter neuronal disconnection, lower neuronal threshold for headache, immaturity of neuronal system...
in childhood [137] and the lack or poor sensitivity to nitric oxide [138]. Therefore in neurological assessment of patients or history taking from them should not depend or limit on the migraine symptoms or its criteria to be diagnosis.

**SHNOT/P in the use of Neurological Health Services**

Patients with migraine or other neurological illnesses consult neurologists, psychiatrist neurosurgeons or physicians would be of benefit to recognize migraine and its association with neurological disorder on basis of SHNOT/P. According to the new explanation not only migraine co morbids with neurological illness but also other neurological disorders should be investigated for SHNOT/P by such expertise. This is because the pathophysiology of migraine due to SHNOT/P can also present without migraine headache and with other neurological illnesses therefore the following investigation will be more important to diagnose the SHNOT to plan out treatment and assessment of the prognosis of neurological disorders.

**Investigation for Diagnosis of SHNOT/P Induced Migraine**

**MRI or CT-Scan of the brain and paranasal sinuses**

It is important to verify anatomical anomalies and pathological conditions relevant to SHNOT/P. Up to now even in migraine patients both scans have been mainly used to exclude mainly brain pathology that can contribute or trigger migraine symptoms. According to the new hypothesis the following paranasal sinus pathology is reported to help the diagnosis of SHNOT/P or get the idea of anatomical anomalies [22,23] that contribute to paranasal hypoxia and can be explained as three divided levels such as intra nasal, ostial and intra sinus.

In the first level the anomalies in the nasal cavity are such as concha bullosa, paradoxical turbinate, large middle turbinate, nasal septal deviation and stenosis of nasal cavity. Furthermore, deviation of the unseated process tip, nasal spur, uncinate bulla and Haller cells may affect sinus ventilation [22,23]. In the second level blockade of sinus ostia can be observed in oedema or inflammation induced by various factors such as hormone, stress and food. Furthermore anatomical anomalies- ostiometal complex obstruction and narrowing e.g. large pneumatized ethmoidal bullae and mechanical obstruction-polyps and mucus plug induced hypoxia in the sinus cavities [22,23] contribute to blockade of the sinus ostia. In addition the polyps in the sinus cavity cause increased levels of hypoxia because it absorbs oxygen and leads to produce more s NO. Sinusitis can be identified as being brought on by a higher level of sNO which is the main cause for SHNOT/P pathology, and is also a positive finding because migraine has direct association with sinus hypoxia [132]. In the third level, sinus hypoxia and increased surface area for sNO diffusion could also be observed in intra sinus anomalies such as highly pneumatized cavities, narrowing of the opening of sub cavities, mucosal and vascular abnormalities and increased number of intra sinus septa or diverticula [22,23].

However, normal healthily sinus cavity views would not exclude the SHNOT because it could develop due to mucosal oedema or inflammation that cannot be visualized. For instance, the mucosal changes (e.g.: edema) due to hormonal change in females, cold environment, alcohol, electrostatic change, emotional excitability, subclinical level of increased bacterial flora could not be identified from the scan films. In addition, high sNO can also keep sinuses in a clear state because anti-microbial action of n NO [139]. On the other hand nasal and paranasal oedema may be due to parasympathetic hyper activity in migraine [140]. In psychiatric patients, the oedema induced by the neural effect can be reduced or normalized by tricycle antidepressants [141] or other drugs and reduces stress stage. Therefore such clinical events or state and clinical history that affects or paranasal hypoxia or parasympathetic tone should be considered in the clinical setup comparing the knowledge of the pathophysiology of migraine based on SHNOT/P.

Nasal and sinus endoscopy would help to identify some pathological conditions and anomalies. Furthermore according to the SHNOT/P sinus and nasal NO level would directly help to get information of a high level of sNO but it also varies with time due to some migraine trigger factors that would not have existed at the time of investigation. Moreover, moderate levels of the increase of sNO would not support a negative diagnosis because large diffusable vulnerable surface areas in the nasal cavity for sNO and length of obstructive time in the cavity would facilitate diffusion of more s NO to develop migraine or SHNOT/P.

**Clinical Application and Limitation**

**New therapy for neurological disorders**

SHNOT/P as a cause or aggravator pathology of other neurological disorders directs us to plan a new strategy for the treatment of such neurological disorders that can be achieved by reducing the neurovascular impulse generation at the sinorhinological base. For instance, this therapy would help to prevent or reduce the aggravation of the hemorrhagic and ischemic stroke; ischemia induced monon polyopathy, venous thrombosis, beginning intracranial hypertension, empty Sella syndrome and tumors. Furthermore it would reduce the number of attacks of epilepsy , narcolepsy, vestibular migraine ,motion sickness that are based on SHNOT/P or it’s association. In addition sino rhinogenic pathology/SHNOT/P can be proposed for some other neurological disorders because the trigeminal neuronal network in the central nervous system is extensively interconnected with many other important neural structures through direct and indirect ways. Therefore the identification of migraine pathology /SHNOT/P or the early stages of its pathology which underlines neurological illness in an individual patient is extremely important.

**Abolishing the inducement of paranasal sinus NOS:** This could be brought on by three methods.

**Adjustment of life style:** Adequate sleep. Lack of stress and avoidance of emotional breakdowns and many other trigger factors of migraine would help to reduce nasal and sinus mucosal oedema. Interestingly cold weather or food or places (e.g. under a fan, air conditioned room or bus, cold wind) and body heat loss due to inadequate covering of body surface by cloth, cold bath, open body during the sleep that would contribute to induce parasympathetic activity via hypothalamus directly leading to nasal mucosal oedema or inflammation. This in turn induces higher production of sNO in the sinus cavity. Whereas hot treatment would temporarily in the environment also contribute reflex vasodilatation leading to nasal and sinus mucosal swelling. Therefore avoidance of these migraine triggers and cold stimulating agents or place or habit would help in the management of extra production of sNO in susceptible persons according to SHNOT/P.

**Medical treatment:** Medical therapies suppress the pathology that develops the hypoxia in the sinus. It includes anti-inflammatory therapy [anti-histamine, steroid therapy, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID)], vasoconstrictor drugs (intrasal sumatriptan, oxymetazoline) and diuretics (frusemide) they will also improve sinus ventilation by reducing the oedema or inflammation, and decrease
the production of excess sNO induced by the hypoxia. Furthermore
neurogenic inflammation in migraine patients could be reduced by
the anti-inflammatory therapy and triptan. The latter group of drugs
inhibits both vaso dilatation and neurogenic plasma extravasations.
Most of these treatments is currently used in the medical management
of migraine.

**Standardized surgical treatment:** Two surgical techniques for
migraine and cluster headache have been suggested that applied will be
effective in the SHNOP base psychiatric disorder or the susceptibility
to aggravate those illnesses which are the Norvak Technique and the
Bonocors P Technique. Former includes more conservative treatment
with septal correction, resection of middle concha, and ethmoidectomy
on the ipsilateral migraine side. The latter technique is more radical,
including septal correction, ethmoidectomy, sphenoidectomy and
resection of the middle concha [22-24].

**The failure Rate of Surgical Treatment**

The failure rate of surgical treatment can be suggested due to many
factors such as intact continuous activation of the trigeminal sensory
nerve by dsNO in the vulnerable mucosa, a practical difficulty to
manipulate the sinus ostia or sinus track or sinus cavity to normalize
sNO levels, an inadequate or unskilled surgical approach, post-surgical
complications (hypoxia to the sinuses or growth of the vulnerable new
contact surface area, infection), lack of postoperative care . In addition
it may be due to neuro pathological factors such as time taken for the
recovery CNS pathology (e.g. Deficit central neurotransmitters levels ,
receptor changes and neural track dysfunction), a significant neuronal
damage , degeneration genetic vulnerability and central sensitization.

**Control of Central Pathophysiology of Neurological Disorders at Central Level**

This hypothesis does not propose that the above management is the
only plan for neurological disorders that are mainly caused by SHNOP.
It is because other factors for neurological disorder and migraine that
will exist lifelong if it is not be treated well. Therefore, drug treatment
and other therapy for the neurological illness should be continued with
relevant guideline if necessary.

**Summary**

Migraine and neurological disorders are chronic recurrent,
associated with significant morbidity, important impairment in daily
functioning, and poor quality of life. Moreover the presence of SHNOP
may contribute to develop neurological disorders or migraine, which
is supported by many findings in both epidemiological evidence
and pathophysiology of migraine and neurological disorders, and
physiological actions of NO molecule. Migraine patients with other
neurological disorders comorbidity are evident and no hopeful
treatment exist mainly due to unknown exact etiology of migraine
pathophysiology. Sinus hypoxic nitric oxide Theory for migraine could
be considered to explain the relation or association for migraine and
some neurological disorders and the therapeutic measures can be
also introduced both preventive and curative treatment aspects.
The existence of pathological process of SHNOP could take place in both
patients with aura and non-aura migraine headache and even it could
happen in person without headache among the normal population.
Therefore different neurological presentations due to the consequence
of chronicization of neuro pathological effects could exist or have
taken place even when they did not have experience of migraine attack
earlier.

This in turn directs us to take early steps to prevent such
neurological diseases other than migraine by detecting, investigation
and diagnosis of migraine or SHNOP and impress the important of the
application of medical or surgical approach or adjustment of life events
on sinorhinological based theory. Finally SHNOT induced neurological
condition seems to be more frequently found in the patients, who could
be suggested as a major considerable pathophysiology contributed too
many neurological disorders. Early steps to treatment for reducing
the development or aggravation of SHNOP would help to ameliorate
pathological factors that may associate or influence to aggravate or give
rise some neurological illness through the extra or unnecessary neuron
vascular impulse generation at sinorhinological based and progression
of the pathological effect due to the pathology in the central nervous
system so that it could prevent the pathophysiological processes that
induce or contribute to cause neurological illnesses or to aggravate
their pathophysiology.

**Conclusion**

Prevention and control of the excess or unnecessary impulse
generation and neurovascular activation primarily in sinorhinological
areas could be done by medical or surgical approach or adjustment
of life events for the benefit of avoidance or prevent neuropathology
affecting to cause or aggravate the neurological illnesses. However lack
of knowledge of diagnosis for sinorhinogenic impulse generation for
migraine and neurological disorders exists. Apart from the existing
hypotheses for neurological disorders this SHNOP is suggested as a
main or an additional etiological cause or aggregative factor for the
neurological disorders and the comorbidity. Any how this article
doesn’t poise that SHNOT is the only cause of almost all neurological
disorders. But sNO could be used here to explain the contribution
or association of migraine pathophysiology and some neurological
disorder comorbidity with migraine as well as development or
aggravation of some neurological condition or disorders. Conclusively
this review article has the following advantages. (a) It provides a
pathophysiological link between migraine and neurological disorders.
(b) It offers scope for sinorhinogenic based treatment and approach
for migraine and some neurological disorders. (c) It provides a better
understanding of newly proposed medical and surgical treatment for
neurological disorders. (d) It provides and opens a completely new
approach to novel pathophysiology for some neurological disorders.
(e) It offers scope for primary prevention of the neurological disorders.
(f) It provides information of a main cause or contributory factor for
aggravation of existing neurological illnesses. (g) It provides a plausible
explanation on why not all patients with migraine develop neurological
disorders and associated different presentations. (h) It can be used to
understand other hypotheses that are used to explain the pathology of
different neurological disorders, migraine and neurological disorder
-morbidity. (i) Finally it offers a novel coherent picture how sino
rhino logical pathophysiology of migraine influences on its co-morbid
neurological disorders and some other neurological disorders.

The value of such a scientific explanation and treatment cannot
be underestimated. Leaving aside or attempting to ignore SHNOT/P
among the pathophysiological hypotheses of the neurological illnesses
seems to be a marked deficient and inaccurate neuro scientific
approach in the field of neuroscience. What this article does offer is
a naval perspective on many major factors in neurological disorders
and suggests that SHNOT/P should receive much more attention
and consideration as a potential causal and aggregative agent in
the development of neurological disorders or their severity. However the
sino rhino logical abnormalities and its etiology for the neurological

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Moreover theses involve in primary prevention of such neurological disorders based on sinonasal aetiology to more than 10-40% of the world population who suffer from disorders is more effective, this could open a completely new approach based management of sinonasal therapy for the neurological long term consequences of the surgical and medical intervention of the aggravation of both migraine and its comorbid neurological illnesses and other SHNOP related neurological disorders. However long term consequences of the surgical and medical intervention of sinonasal approach for migraine and neurological disorder co-morbidity and other neurological disorders should be studied further and investigated by clinical trial. If the surgical and medical based management of sinonasal therapy for the neurological disorders is more effective, this could open a completely new approach to more than 10-40% of the world population who suffer from various neurological disorders based on sinonasal aetiology from minimum to sever form and to get rid of individual suffering. Moreover theses involve in primary prevention of such neurological disorders and thus it will also reduce the social burden.

References


