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Peripheral Nerve Stimulator For Treating Nummular Headaches And Occipital Neuralgia

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Introduction

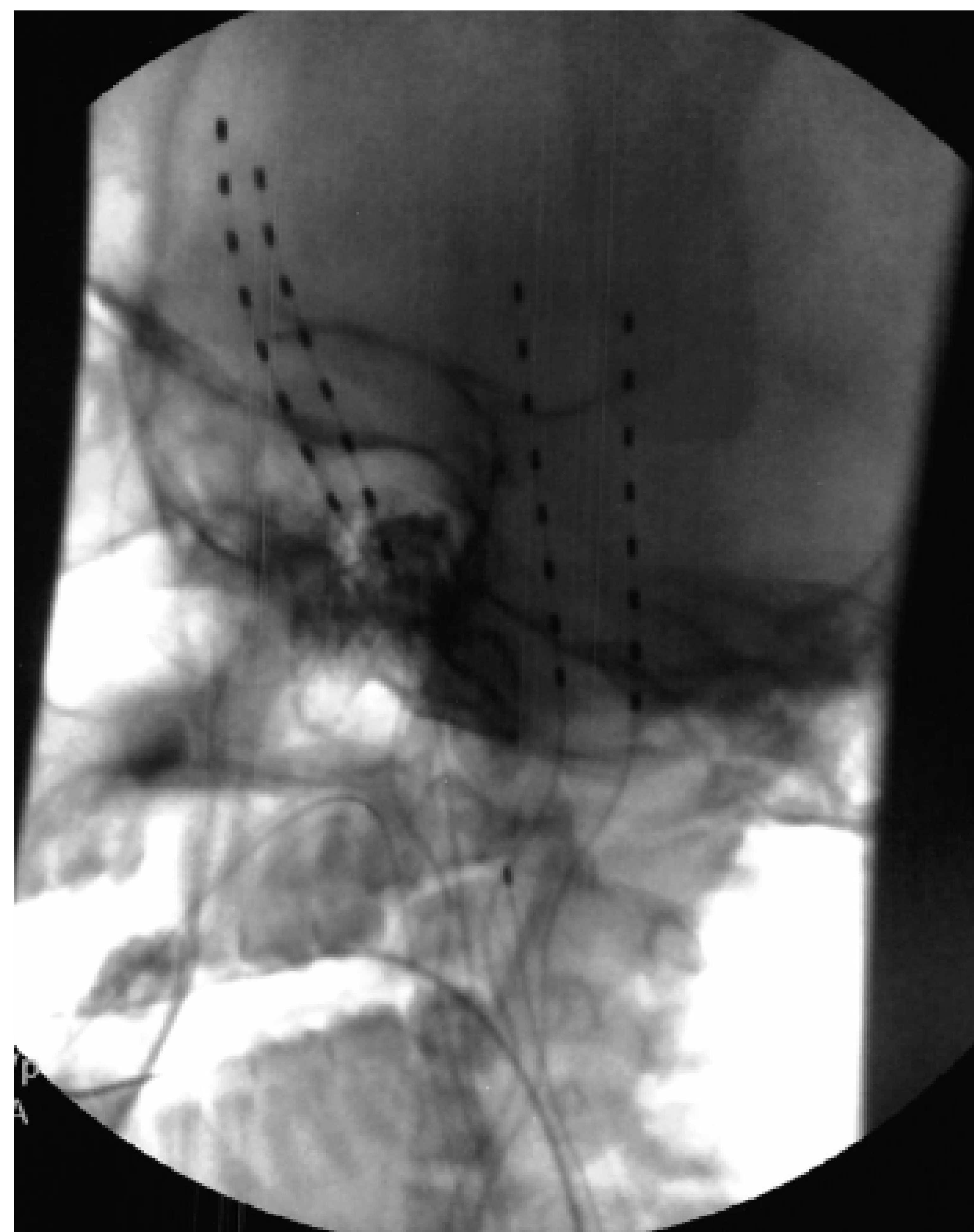
A 24 year old female presented with a complaint of headaches post Chiari malformation decompression that was performed as a child. She described constant pressure localized over the mastoid bone in a 3 cm circular area. Prior to this, she would sometimes get electric shocks that radiated towards the frontal bone. She was diagnosed with nummular headaches and occipital neuralgia by a neurologist. She tried NSAIDs, gabapentin, carbamazepine, opioids, and local injections with little relief or unwanted side effects. A peripheral nerve stimulator was placed directly on the spot and to the area that it would radiate to.

Methods

This patient was a candidate for a peripheral nerve stimulator after failing conservative therapy.

Results

The patient has had 70% improvement in symptoms and 90% reduction in NSAID and opioid consumption.



Discussion & Conclusion

There has been at least one case report of trigeminal neuralgia that evolved into a pattern of nummular headaches in our literature search¹. However, there seems to be no reported cases of occipital neuralgia that evolved into a nummular headache nor has there been any report of using peripheral nerve stimulators to treat a case like this. The result of this case demonstrates the significance utilizing peripheral nerve stimulation for treatment resistant occipital neuralgia or nummular headaches^{2,3}.

References

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