PATIENTS WITH ACUTE VASCULAR ACCIDENT
REPORT OF TWO CASES

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Objective
Presentation of the clinical aspects and rehabilitation progress of two patients with acute spinal vascular accident. Acute spinal vascular accident (SVA) is a rare condition, that can lead to neurological disability. It represents less than 10% of acute myelopathies.

Materials and Methods
• The first patient, a 37-year-old man with spastic paraplegia at T11 spinal level due to an arteriovenous malformation (AVM), with no concurrent pathologies. The patient had showed progressively deteriorating muscle weakness for the last 3 months.
• The second patient, a 61-year-old woman with flaccid tetraplegia at T3 spinal level after an SVA. She had a history of treated dyslipidemia, and the presenting symptom was mild chest pain a few days before the muscle weakness.

Both were investigated radiologically to accurately localize the pathologies and the extend of the damage. During the hospital stay they showed no neurological difference. They followed an individualized rehabilitation program based on progressive motor mobilization and occupational therapy.

Results:
SVA has a poor functional prognosis, and is often followed by severe patient motor disability. Early diagnosis is often difficult due to atypical onset symptoms. The severity of motor and sensory deficits during patient admission, are reliable predictive factors for the functional outcome. Personalized rehabilitation treatment can be beneficial for SVA patients.

Conclusions
Raising awareness on the field of acute SVA, may prove useful for early diagnosis, treatment and better prognosis. The treatment and rehabilitation of SVA patients is challenging and of varying degree of success.

References