PURPOSE:

This study was designed to analyse and describe the clinical profile of patients with Idiopathic intracranial hypertension (IIH). The aim was to study the behaviour and natural course of IIH, associated neuroimaging features and to evaluate the response to treatment and visual outcome.

METHODS:

A prospective study was done at the Department of Neuroophthalmology, Aravind Eye Hospital and Post Graduate Institute of Ophthalmology, Madurai, over a period of six months, from December 2014 to May 2015.

RESULTS:

A series of 61 patients with clinically and radiologically proven diagnosis of IIH were included in our study. The mean age of presentation was 29.97 years and obese females of child-bearing age were more commonly affected. Anaemia was a significant risk factor in our study population. Most of the patients had visual acuity of 6/6. Most common false localising sign was sixth nerve paresis. Most of the patients presented with established papilledema. Most common visual field defect was an enlarged blind spot. In MRI and CT
brain, thickening of optic nerve sheath and empty sella were the most common findings in our patients. In MRV study, 30.2%(16) patients had congenital hypoplasia or stenosis of transverse sinus or sigmoid sinus or both. Patients were treated with acetazolamide, iron supplements, lumbar puncture and optic nerve sheath decompression depending upon the stage and severity of presentation. Follow up at one month and at three months showed resolving papilledema following treatment in most cases.

**CONCLUSION:**

IIH is a neurological disorder common in obese women of childbearing age presenting with varied clinical features. Neuroimaging shows hypoplasia or stenosis of transverse venous sinuses in a large number of IIH patients. Whether these venous abnormalities are cause or consequence of increased intracranial pressure is still under debate.

**KEYWORDS:**

Idiopathic intracranial hypertension, obesity, papilledema, transverse sinus stenosis