

Schwannoma of the external nose: Report of two cases and literature review

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SUMMARY

Schwannoma, also known as neurilemoma, is a benign neoplasm which takes origin from the peripheral nerve sheath. Such a tumor possesses a slow-growing and protracted nature, mimicking other common occurring benign nasal mass. Herein, the authors report two cases of neurilemoma of the external nose that were successfully excised. The clinical manifestations and management are described along with the literature review. External nasal schwannomas of the nasolabial fold and dorsum were described in case report 1 and 2, respectively. Clinical manifestations of firm, well-circumscribed nodular masses with smooth surfaces were illustrated in both cases. A computerized tomography (CT) of the paranasal sinuses were performed in the second case, revealing a heterogeneous lesion with an ill-defined margin over the nasal bridge, with a clear fat plane between the lesion and the nasal bone. Complete excision of the Schwannomas was achieved in both cases with good aesthetic outcome. Final histopathology findings of Antoni A and B bodies confirmed the diagnosis of schwannoma. The management of a schwannoma of the external nose revolves around the functional and aesthetic outcome. A complete extirpation of an external nasal schwannoma while preserving the cosmesis cannot be overemphasized. Surgical intervention should only be counselled after weighting between its risk and benefits.

Silent massive bleeding from an ectopic lingual thyroid: A case report

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SUMMARY

Ectopic lingual thyroid is a rare embryological defect of the thyroid gland characterised by the presence of thyroid tissue located in a site different from the normal pre-tracheal region. It occurs due to failure of descent of the gland early in the course of embryogenesis. It can be found around the course of the thyroglossal duct from foramen cecum to pre-tracheal region. The lingual thyroid is frequently asymptomatic, but may cause local symptoms such as dysphagia, dysphonia, upper airway obstruction and hypothyroidism. Treatment depends on whether the lingual thyroid is the only functional thyroid tissue and the manner of presentation. Our report is aimed at the rare presentation of life threatening bleeding from an ectopic lingual thyroid. We present a case of a 49 year old lady with more than 30 years history of uninvestigated muffled voice. She presented with sudden onset of torrential hematemesis with a drop in haemoglobin level down to 3mg/dl. In view of her massive bleeding and shock status, emergency excision was done as a lifesaving procedure. Examination under anaesthesia and direct laryngoscopy was done, and revealed a large actively bleeding lingual thyroid. The ectopic thyroid was excised per orally and its base cauterized till bleeding arrested. Massive bleeding in the ectopic lingual thyroid can be life threatening and occasionally fatal. Surgical excision is still the best treatment option in an emergency situation, despite the possibility of it being the only functioning thyroid tissue.