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Orbital Cavernous Hemangiomas

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AJNR Am J Neuroradiol published online 22 October 2008
<http://www.ajnr.org/content/early/2008/10/22/ajnr.A1271.citation>

This information is current as
of April 18, 2024.

Orbital Cavernous Hemangiomas

We have read with interest the article “Dynamic Enhancement Features of Cavernous Sinus Cavernous Hemangiomas on Conventional Contrast-Enhanced MR Imaging” by Y. Jinhu et al published in the March 2008 issue of the *American Journal of Neuroradiology*.¹ The authors reported progressive contrast “filling in” in cavernous hemangiomas in the cavernous sinus as an important differential diagnostic sign distinguishing them from other tumors in the cavernous sinus. They refer to the pathognomonic features of hepatic cavernous hemangiomas displaying the same temporal enhancement on sequential MR imaging.²

Similar findings were already described by us in orbital cavernous hemangiomas in 1995.³ Progressive and total homogeneous filling up of an orbital mass on gadolinium-enhanced MR imaging was considered by us as a pathognomonic sign of cavernous hemangioma. All the lesions showed the same high intensity on T2-weighted spin-echo images and showed initial patchy enhancement with delayed and progressive filling in. Since then, we have diagnosed several orbital masses as cavernous hemangiomas. In a recent case in a patient with breast carcinoma (Fig 1), the typical features of an orbital cavernous hemangioma were present, with T2 hyperintensity and delayed filling in of

contrast. Because the referring clinician did not believe us, pathologic proof of an orbital cavernous hemangioma was obtained after surgical removal of the lesion.

Our experience suggests that cavernous hemangiomas in the cavernous sinus, orbit, and liver have a similar appearance on imaging studies, including strong T2 hyperintensity and progressive filling in on sequential MR imaging on contrast-enhanced studies, possibly corresponding to similar histologic types.

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DOI 10.3174/ajnr.A1271

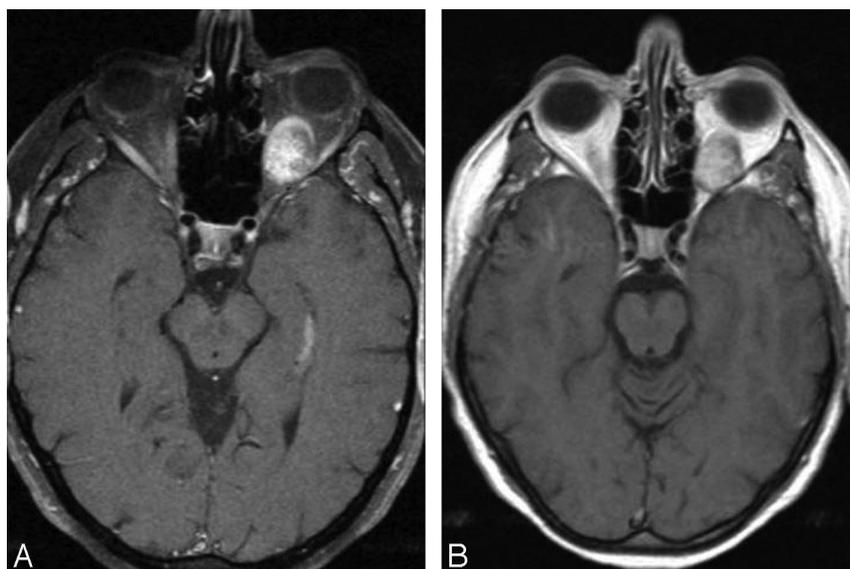


Fig 1. Orbital cavernous hemangioma. *A*, Transverse contrast-enhanced T1-weighted image with fat-saturation immediately after contrast injection. Note patchy central enhancement of the lesion. *B*, Transverse delayed contrast-enhanced image. Note homogeneous enhancement of the lesion.