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Cystic Intraparenchymal Meningioma in a Child: Case Report

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Meningiomas may have atypical features on CT scans [1]. These variations in appearance may be misleading in terms of predicting the histology of such lesions preoperatively. Among these variations, cystic meningiomas are particularly confusing [2]. We encountered an unusual case of a cystic and intraparenchymal meningioma in a child. This combination of features has not been reported previously.

Case Report

A 27-month-old girl was admitted to the hospital for evaluation of fever (40°C), vomiting, and diarrhea. At the time of admission, physical examination revealed a large head and an open anterior fontanelle. The child’s head circumference was about the 95th percentile for age. The remainder of the physical examination was normal. The mother reported that the patient was born by spontaneous vaginal delivery at 42-weeks gestation after an uncomplicated pregnancy. Medical history was remarkable only for a large head at birth, but transillumination was negative for hydrocephalus and no imaging studies were performed at that time.

On this admission a CT scan of the head showed a 9.5-cm calcified cystic mass in the left frontal region (Figs. 1A and 1B). After administration of contrast material there was some enhancement in the interstices of the heterogeneous mass. Digital subtraction angiography of the left common carotid arterial system was performed under

![Fig. 1.-A, Unenhanced CT scan of the brain shows a large complex mass in left frontal region. Mass contains dense calcifications as well as cystic components. Compression of left lateral ventricle and shift of midline structures is evident. B, After contrast administration, enhancement can be seen within calcified portion of mass. C, Histology of meningioma shows dark round psammoma bodies. (H and E, x130)
general anesthesia. The mass was avascular and there were no enlarged meningeal vessels. Differential diagnosis included oligodendroglioma and teratoma.

Following these studies, the patient underwent craniotomy and excision of the tumor. At surgery, the mass was pale yellow with microcystic and intraparenchymal. Differential diagnosis included glioma and teratoma. Enlarged meningeal vessels. Differential diagnosis included glioma and teratoma.

The radiologic appearance of intraparenchymal meningiomas in children (17 years and under) has been reported [8]. There are even fewer reports of intraparenchymal meningiomas [3, 6, 7]. In our case the tumor was both cystic and intraparenchymal. In adults, an association of cyst formation with intraparenchymal meningiomas has been noted, but this combination has not been described previously in children [2]. In a review of 18 childhood meningiomas, however, Sano et al. [7] found that cyst formation (16.7%) and absence of dural attachment (12.5%) were relatively common features.

The correct diagnosis was not made preoperatively in our case. While angiography of meningiomas usually demonstrates their external carotid supply, this was not present in our case. On a review of the literature, Fortuna et al. [9] concluded that the correct diagnosis of cystic meningioma could be made by angiography in only 13% of cases. In reviewing several articles with angiographic results, there was no external carotid supply to the tumor in 50% [3–6, 10, 11]. Reports of other cystic meningiomas describe CT enhancement similar to that in our case, but in one case, also a child, no enhancement was seen on CT [3]. Calcification was reported in two other cases [3, 6], but was not described in reports of large series of cystic meningiomas [1, 8, 9]. The literature does not reveal any unique imaging features of cystic meningiomas.

A preoperative MR study was not performed, and no reports have been published on the MR appearance of cystic meningiomas. On the basis of the difficulties in discriminating these lesions from gliomas both on CT and histologically [2], it seems unlikely that MR will permit their characterization, but this awaits further experience. MR may be helpful when a broad dural attachment may be more apparent on coronal or sagittal images than might be appreciated on axial CT. It remains essential that the possibility of a meningioma be considered whenever a cystic intracranial mass is identified in a patient of any age.

REFERENCES