

Malignant melanoma of the nasal cavity

Ferjaoui Mahdi¹, Chikh Ali Chiraz¹, Bouatay Rachida¹, ElKorbi Amel¹, Kolsi Naourez¹, Harrathi Khalel¹, Koubaa Jamel¹ 1. ENT department, Fattouma Bourguiba University Hospital, Monastir, Tunisia

Abstract

- Head and neck malignant melanoma (HNMM) is rare and carries a poor prognosis.
- Most HNMMs are diagnosed at a late stage because the disease progresses rapidly without symptoms. For advanced disease, surgery with or without adjuvant therapy was considered.
- However, surgical procedures for advanced disease have a negative impact on patients, because of extensive surgeries, cosmetic problems, and loss of normal function, and high local recurrence rates.
- Definitive radiotherapy is administered only for few patients because malignant melanoma generally shows a high resistance to radiotherapy.
- High doses per fraction may have the potential to control radioresistant tumors; however, such high doses are generally toxic to late-responding tissues, such as the brain stem and optic nerve
- Only 0.5% of malignant melanoma arises in nasal cavity,

AIM

We report a case of malignant melanoma of the nasal cavity in a 59-year-old woman who presented with swelling of nose, nasal block and epistaxis

Results

- A 59-year-old woman
- **Complaints :** Nasal swelling, blockage and with occasional nasal bleeding from last 2 years with a small swelling, approximately 2 cm in diameter, on the right side of nose about a month back which had rapidly increased in size.
- **Clinical examination :** a large swelling was noticed on the right side of nose measuring 4x4 cm. The swelling was red friable and was blocking the nasal passage.
- Routine Biochemical and haematological investigations were carried out which all were in normal limits.

- **Imaging :** CT scan showed soft-tissue over the nasal region extending to right maxillary sinus.
- **Treatment :** The patient was subjected to surgery and the resected tumour was sent for histopathological examination.
Postoperative radio-therapy was given to the patient
- Gross findings consist of multiple brown-black soft tissue pieces.
- **Histological examination :** the diagnosis of malignant melanoma was made on light microscopy , which was later confirmed by immunohistochemistry .
- **survival :** One year after surgery the patient consulted again for a right side cervical swelling with on examination ; two firm painless right jugulocarotid adenopathies

She had a right functional neck lymph node dissection and cytological examination showed 4 among 27 lymph nodes found are metastatic from the patient's known melanoma.

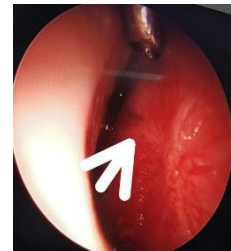


Fig 1 : endoscopic investigation of the nasal cavity showing the tumor

Conclusion

- The primary malignant melanoma of the nose is extremely rare entity and it must be differentiated from other tumours of the nose and paranasal sinuses.
- Early diagnosis and surgical treatment of the melanoma of the nose offer the only possible hope of survival and therefore, attention must be paid to the minor nasal symptoms at the earliest.
- Radiotherapy with high doses per fraction may have the potential to control radioresistant tumors, such as malignant melanoma

Références

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- 2/Amelanotic Mucosal Melanoma of the Nasal Cavity: Case Report and Literature Review.Tahiri I, El Houari O, Hajji A, Zalagh M, Benariba F.