Ectopic Inferior Orbital Meningioma

ABSTRACT

Aim: To present a unique case of ectopic orbital meningioma presenting in anteroinferior part of orbit.

Introduction: Primary orbital meningiomas arise from the optic nerve sheath and constitute 10 to 30% of orbital meningiomas. Secondary orbital meningiomas represent 70 to 90% of orbital meningiomas and are the direct extension of intracranial meningiomas into the orbit. Rarely ectopic rests of arachnoid cells give rise to meningiomas separate from optic nerve sheath. Ectopic orbit meningioma is a rare tumor arising from ectopic arachnoidal tissue. The present case report describes an elderly patient with ectopic orbital meningioma in anteroinferior quadrant.

Case report: A 70-year-old female patient presented with slowly growing mass in the inferior part of right orbit. This lesion was firm in consistency and not fixed to skin or bone. Computed tomography scan showed a homogeneous mass lesion in anteroinferior part of right orbit without any bony changes. The orbital mass was excised. Anatomic-pathologic evaluation of the excised specimen revealed a benign meningioma of a meningothelial type.

Conclusion: Ectopic orbital meningioma may present in elderly patients in anteroinferior orbit.

Clinical significance: An ectopic orbital meningioma should be considered in differential diagnosis of firm orbital mass presenting in anteroinferior orbit.

Keywords: Anteroinferior, Ectopic, Extraconal, Meningioma, Orbit.


Source of support: Nil

Conflict of interest: None

INTRODUCTION

Meningiomas of the orbit are uncommon and account for 4% of intraorbital tumors. They can be divided into two categories: Primary and secondary orbital meningiomas. Primary orbital meningiomas arise from optic nerve sheath and constitute 10 to 30% of all orbital meningiomas. Secondary orbital meningiomas represent 70 to 90% of orbital meningiomas and are direct extension of intracranial meningiomas into the orbit. Rarely ectopic rests of arachnoid cells give rise to meningiomas separate from optic nerve sheath. Ectopic orbit meningioma is a rare tumor arising from ectopic arachnoidal tissue. The present case report describes an elderly patient with ectopic anteroinferior orbital meningioma.

CASE REPORT

A 70-year-old female patient presented with a gradually, painless progressive swelling in inferior part of orbit for past 1 year. The past and medical histories were unremarkable. Visual acuity was 20/20 in both eyes. Palpation of the right orbit showed presence of firm, smooth surfaced, mass in inferior nasal quadrant that was not adherent to skin or bone. The globe was pushed superiorly and laterally (Fig. 1A). Computed tomography scan of orbits showed a homogeneous hyperdense mass located in anteroinferior part of right orbit (Fig. 1B). A right anterior inferior orbitotomy was done and a well-defined circumscribed, firm, grayish-brown mass measuring 20 × 20 × 10 mm in size was excised. Microscopy revealed cells displaying a meningothelial morphology and a syncytial growth pattern, with nuclei showing little monomorphic to minimally pleomorphic oval- to spindle-shaped cells with vesicular nuclei and nuclear grooving with prominent nucleoli, with scanty to moderate amount of cytoplasm with indistinct boundary between adjacent cells (Fig. 2A). Immunohistochemistry with epithelial membrane antigen and vimentin positivity confirmed the meningothelial nature of the cells (Fig. 2B). Other epithelial markers including cytokeratin, S-100 protein, and smooth muscle actin stains were negative. The Ki 67 immunostaining was performed to assess the proliferation rate of the lesion with a labeling index of 7%. After 1 year of follow-up, the patient was disease free.

DISCUSSION

Orbital meningiomas are primarily divided into two types: (1) Primary optic nerve sheath meningioma, which originate from the arachnoid around the optic nerve, (2) secondary orbital meningiomas occur due to orbital...
invasion of intracranial meningioma. A third group of orbital meningioma known as ectopic meningioma occurs away from the optic nerve without any demonstrable connection with the intracranial meninges. Farah et al. in 1999 had reported a case of ectopic orbital meningioma and reviewed previously reported cases. They could find only five published cases of orbital ectopic meningioma that had sufficient clinical, radiologic, and histopathological evidence to support this diagnosis. This condition is probably an underreported entity as previously there was no consensus on existence of ectopic orbital meningioma. Also, some cases might have been thought of as an extension of intracranial meningioma. Here, we describe 14 cases1-10 of ectopic orbital meningioma previously reported that have sufficient clinical, radiologic, and histopathological evidence to support the diagnosis and the case that we reported here. Table 1 summarizes patient demographics, tumor location, treatment, follow-up, complications, tumor connection to optic nerve, and histopathologic classification in 15 cases with ectopic orbital meningioma. Mean age was 30.4 years (7–70 years). It occurred throughout all age groups with a male predominance (ten males, five females). Five out of 15 (33%) patients have involvement of medial orbital space. Superomedial space was involved in 3 out of 15 (20%) cases; superior, lateral and inferomedial spaces were involved in 2 out of 15 (13%) cases each; superolateral space was involved in 1 out of 15 (7%) cases. Ectopic orbital meningiomas have a well-circumscribed appearance in most of the cases. However, in four cases, it presented as diffusely growing mass.2,7,9 Calcification was present in three cases.1,2,6 Connection of the mass to optic nerve was absent in 10 cases and was not specifically mentioned in 5 cases, whereas connection to the periorbita was present in four cases and absent or not mentioned in the rest. The pathogenesis of ectopic orbital meningioma is not clear. There are various theories put forward about the origin of ectopic orbital meningiomas. Tan and Lim11 proposed three possible ways: (1) From occasional arachnoid “nests” in the orbit; (2) from the optic nerve sheath with loss of connection before discovery; and (3) from smaller nerves endowed with arachnoid cells. These lesions may originate from regressed orbital meningoceles with leftover arachnoid tissue trapped within orbital soft tissues. Another hypothesis is that congenitally dislocated nests of meningoepithelial cells located within the orbit6 give rise to the lesion. It may be associated with trauma to the orbit, which dislodges meningeal tissues within the orbit, which serve as a
Another hypothesis suggests that sinus enlargement is the cause or the consequence of the mass is not yet clear. Most cases are amenable to surgical resection. Recurrence occurred in three cases that were treated with second orbitotomy or external beam radiotherapy (EBRT). Our patient is probably the oldest person (70 years) ever reported to have an ectopic orbital meningioma. She had history of trauma 18 months back, which is probably the etiological factor in development of the mass. The mass was present inferonasally in the anterior part of the orbit and was very close to the optic nerve. It was well defined; no evidence of calcification or hyperostosis was seen. Histopathologically, it was of meningothelial variant. Patient remained disease free for 12 months after surgical resection.

**CONCLUSION**

To summarize, ectopic orbital meningiomas are extremely uncommon. All earlier reported cases were located near the medial orbital wall and one in lacrimal gland region and presented mostly in males. This case of ectopic orbital meningioma is not only in eldest patient ever reported, but also represents the only tumor located inferiorly after only 18 months of head trauma in a female patient in the orbit. Its location away from the optic nerve suggests an origin from ectopic arachnoidal cells promoted by trauma to the head. Ectopic orbital meningiomas are rare tumors, possibly originating from ectopic arachnoid rests, predominantly in males. They commonly involve superomedial part of orbital favorable prognosis, if early diagnosed and excised completely.

**REFERENCES**


