Case Report

Spinal drop of atypical choroid plexus papilloma in an adult patient: A case report and literature review

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INTRODUCTION

Choroid plexus papillomas (CPPs) are extra-axial benign tumors that originate from the choroid plexus; these tumors rarely have metastases, being at the spinal level the location with few reported cases.
fluid (CSF) pathways; 35 such cases have been reported in the literature and of these, three exhibited atypical transformation of CPP spinal drop metastases. Here, we describe the diagnosis and management of a patient with atypical CPP in the fourth ventricle with atypical spinal metastasis.

CASE EXAMINATION

A 48-year-old male with a history of fourth ventricle atypical CPP diagnosed in 2008 underwent gross total resection (GTR) without any postoperative neurological deficits [Figure 1]. In 2015, he presented radicular pain, a slight decrease in strength, and paresthesia in the left leg.

The neurological examination showed decreased left thigh strength quantified as 4+ according to the Royal Medical Research Council of Great Britain scale, left patellar reflex quantified as 1+ according to the muscle stretch reflex (deep tendon reflex) grading scale, and hypoesthesia in the third and fourth lumbar dermatomes. Spinal magnetic resonance imaging revealed a well-defined intradural ovoid lesion in the vertebral canal at the level of the L3-L4 intersomatic space with a length of 1.7 × 1.2 cm that was isointense on T1 and T2 sequences with homogeneous enhancement [Figure 2].

Differential diagnosis, investigations, and treatment

The patient underwent microscopy-assisted tubular microsurgery with neural decompression through left L3 hemilaminectomy with subtotal resection (STR). Intraoperatively, we found a soft yellow-colored lesion that was firmly adhered to the fourth lumbar nerve root [Figure 3].

The final pathology report described a neoplasm with papillary architecture, with four mitoses in 10 high-power fields [Figure 4]. Immunohistochemistry showed positivity for cytokeratin 7, S100, and synaptophysin, with a proliferation index (Ki67+) < 1% [Figure 5]. In contrast to the pathology examination performed in 2008, here we observed a neoplasm with papillary architecture and several layers of epithelial cells that were ovoid and uniform, with no evidence of necrosis, pleomorphism, or anaplasia and a small mitotic fraction [Figure 6].

Outcome and follow-up

Postoperatively, there was improvement of the radicular pain and an increase in left leg strength, with no changes in left leg dermal sensation. 2 months later, the patient was treated with radiotherapy (RT).

DISCUSSION

Background

CPPs are rare central nervous system tumors that account for <1% of all intracranial neoplasms. A review of the literature

Figure 1: Brain magnetic resonance imaging. Axial brain contrast material-enhanced T1-weighted image. Within the fourth ventricle, there is a well-defined lesion, homogenous enhancement, and causing partial obliteration of the fourth ventricle.

Figure 2: Spinal magnetic resonance imaging. (a) Sagittal T2-weighted image (b) sagittal lumbar spine contrast material-enhanced T1-weighted image (c) coronal T2-weighted image (d) axial lumbar spine contrast material-enhanced T1-weighted image. In the vertebral canal at the level of the intersomatic space, L3-L4 presents a well-defined ovoid lesion, isointense on T2 sequence, with a length of 1.7 × 1.2 cm, and intradural-extradural behavior that involves the spinal canal with homogeneous enhancement.
females affected (54%) than males. The sites of metastasis or implants were the ventricular system, cranial fossa, and spinal axis. Only three cases have been reported in which the CPP was at a spinal location (i.e., cervical, thoracic, and sacral). We describe here a fifth-decade male patient with a lumbar neoplasm, which according to the histopathologic characteristics and location is the first case of an atypical papilloma implant of the choroid plexus at this spinal level.

Clinical features

The clinical presentation of CPP depends on the site of metastasis. The principal clinical manifestation was radicular pain accompanied by paresis of the affected myotome. The time between diagnosis of primary CPPs and distant spread varied from 1 month to 5 or more years. Thus, for patients with a history of CPP and new-onset radicular pain spinal metastasis involvement must be considered, as in the present case.

Treatment

The decision to perform surgery on this patient was based on the presentation of neurological deficit and pain. According to the previous reports, the indications for surgical intervention of spinal metastasis are intractable pain; the presence of a growing tumor resistant to RT, chemotherapy, or hormonal therapy; evidence of spinal instability, progressive deformity, or neurological deficit; and clinically significant neural compression. The aim of spinal metastasis treatment is to relieve pain and preserve neurological function. Diverse scales have been proposed for evaluating the spinal metastasis treatment; the most popular are the Tokuhashi and Tomita scales which analyze the expected survival of patients. Based on the scores, clinicians can choose surgery or conservative treatment as the best approach for the patient. According to both scales, the treatment of 35 cases of CPP metastasis in adults, with a mean age at presentation of 40.3 years and a larger proportion of females affected (54%) than males.

Figure 3: Surgical view. Soft yellow-colored lesion, firmly adhered to the nerve root of L4, with a length of 1.6 × 0.6 cm.

Figure 4: Photomicrographs of the spinal implant resected in 2017. A neoplasm with papillary architecture is observed, similar to that of 2008 (a and b) with solid areas (c) that present mitosis figures (c and d) of which four mitoses were counted in ten high-rise fields.

Figure 5: Immunohistochemical reactions of the spinal implant showing positivity for cytokeratin seven, positivity for S100 protein, synaptophysin, and with a proliferation index (Ki67) of <1%.

Figure 6: Photomicrographs of atypical fourth ventricle tumor resected in 2008. A neoplasm with papillary architecture is observed with several layers of epithelial cells in some portions, they are ovoid and uniform (a) with a small amount of mitosis (b).
choice for our patient was GTR as the survival prognosis was good. In recent years, minimally invasive surgery (MIS) has become increasingly popular for the treatment of spinal pathology. This approach is associated with lower operative blood loss, diminished narcotic use, shorter postoperative stay, and lower costs of hospitalization compared to open surgery. Although the mortality associated with MIS is 0%, there are other complications including CSF leakage (3%), asymptomatic pseudomeningocele (3%), superficial surgical site infections (2%), sinus vein thrombosis (1%), and neurological deterioration (4%). Intradural extramedullary tumors are candidates for MIS when the patient has a Karnofsky score >70% and normal (E) preoperative American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) score, and craniocaudal tumor length less than 38 mm. Our patient had a Karnofsky score of 90%, ASIA E score, and craniocaudal tumor length of 17 mm and was therefore an excellent candidate for MIS.

Neurological deterioration is expected in cases of GTR. In our patient, total resection was not performed because the tumor was firmly attached to the nerve roots and the risk of neurological damage is greater with GTR.

**Histology**

The world health organization (WHO) classifies ventricular papillary neoplasms into different grades: Grade I CPPs resemble normal papillary tissue, Grade II or atypical tumors are benign CPPs transforming to a malignant type, and Grade III or choroid plexus carcinoma (CPC) is characterized by anaplasia, increased mitotic activity, nuclear pleomorphism, and necrosis. Approximately 80% of ventricular papillary neoplasms are CPPs; 15% are atypical, and < 5% are CPC. Only three cases with metastatic lesions that progressed to atypical features have been reported. The histopathologic findings from our patient suggested atypical CPP (WHO II) as an implant of a previous atypical CPP (WHO II) in the fourth ventricle.

**Prognostic**

For CPPs, GTR is considered to be curative while STR produces good long-term results. Although GTR resulted in excellent tumor control at the 1- and 5-year follow-ups compared to STR, this advantage was lost after 10 years. The utility of adjuvant therapy remains unclear. In cases of STR, RT is reserved for tumor progression documented by imaging; the radiation dose is between 25 and 54 Gy depending on the location of metastasis. GTR is the gold standard of treatment for metastatic CPP. In this case, the first surgery was GTR of the atypical CPP in the fourth ventricle. In one study, progression-free survival after GTR of these tumors was found to be almost 95% and the patient did not receive adjuvant therapy. For the spinal implant, we performed STR and according to the previous studies the patient received adjuvant RT (25 sessions of 1.8 Gy, and for a total of 45 Gy).

Given the unpredictable behavior of CPPs, even with total resection, patients should be closely monitored during the post-surgical period as spinal implants have been reported 10 years after the primary tumor; in the present case, it was detected 7 years later. It is also important to consider the atypical location of CPP implants, which are very rare at the spinal level. In fact, ours is the first case reported at the lumbar level. CPP cases should be monitored for at least 10 years by routine cranial and spinal imaging, after which imaging should be performed in the event that there are root symptoms or the presence of spinal syndrome.

**CONCLUSION**

CPPs are extra-axial benign tumors that account for < 1% of intracranial tumors in adults. The presence of spinal metastasis or implants is very rare; only three cases of spinal metastasis have been reported to date. An adequate follow-up of these patients is essential since implants can occur up to 10 years after the initial presentation of CPP.

The clinical manifestation of compression of nerve root or spinal syndrome in patients with a history of CPP precludes spinal metastasis, necessitating a complete study protocol as in the present case. GTR of primary lesions and associated implants remains the gold standard for surgical treatment of CPP. There are no prophylactic treatments for preventing CPP metastasis. RT, stereotactic radiosurgery, and chemotherapy are adjuvant therapies for CPP but there is no definitive protocol for the management of implants.

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**Declaration of patient consent**

Patient’s consent not required as patients identity is not disclosed or compromised.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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