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Pediatric primary pilocytic astrocytoma of the cerebellopontine angle: a case report.

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INTRODUCTION: We describe a rare case of pediatric pilocytic astrocytoma presented as a right cerebellopontine angle (CPA) mass, completely separated from the brain stem and arising from the proximal VIII nerve portion. **CASE REPORT:** A 12-year-old boy, with no evidence of neurofibromatosis type 2, presented with progressive hearing loss at the right ear and headache. An initial enhanced magnetic resonance examination suggested the diagnosis of schwannoma. The tumor was resected by a suboccipital retrosigmoid approach.

DISCUSSION: Our case seems to be the first report of a primary pediatric CPA pilocytic astrocytoma arising from the VIII nerve complex and presenting internal auditory canal enlargement. It represents the third reported case of a primary CPA pilocytic astrocytoma (the second pediatric case with the first arising from V nerve) and the eighth report of primary CPA glioma, overall. We discuss the clinical, neuroradiological, and intraoperative findings, and we review the different hypothesis about the origin of these rare tumors.

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