Lipoastrocytoma: Case report and review of the literature.


Abstract

Lipoastrocytoma is an extremely rare tumor, with only six cases described. We report the case of an astrocytoma involving the upper part of the cerebellar-pontine angle and the right portion of the clivus starting from the brainstem with a diffuse lipomatous component in a 39 year-old man. The patient was admitted with headache of 1 year’s duration and diplopia over the previous 3 months. MRI revealed a ponto-cerebellar lesion that showed irregular enhancement after contrast administration. Subtotal excision of the tumor was accomplished. Adjuvant chemotherapy and radiation therapy were not administered. Histologically the tumor showed the classical histology of low-grade astrocytoma and a portion of the lesion was composed of lipid-laden cells. Immunohistochemistry for glial fibrillary acid and S-100 proteins clearly demonstrated the glial nature of these cells. Ki-67/Mib-1 labeling index was low (2%). The patient remains in good neurological conditions after 10 months. Our case has a benign postoperative behavior, also after subtotal excision, with restrictions due to the short follow-up. It is important to record each new case of this rare tumor to produce a better characterization of this lesion.

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