OBJECTIVE: Choroid plexus tumors are rare intraventricular tumors, accounting for less than 1% of all intracranial tumors and 2-4% of brain tumors in children. The authors present their experience in the management of these lesions, and a review of the literature is performed.

METHODS: We retrospectively analyzed the outcome of pediatric patients with choroid plexus tumors treated with surgical resection. The patients' charts were reviewed for demographic data, clinical presentation, surgical therapy and follow-up.

RESULTS: This study involves 18 consecutive choroid plexus tumors: 14 papillomas, 2 atypical papillomas and 2 carcinomas. The tumor was located in the lateral ventricles (12), the fourth ventricle (4) and the third ventricle (2). The mean age at presentation was 4.6 years. Surgical resection was performed in all cases and no patients died perioperatively. Survival rate of papilloma patients was 100% without evidence of recurrent disease (mean follow-up for 73 months). Survival rate of carcinoma patients was 50% (mean follow-up for 23.5 months). One carcinoma patient died of disseminated disease 13 months after surgery. The functional outcome in long-term survivors after papilloma surgery was excellent. Postoperative extraventricular drainage (EVD) was performed in 12 patients. Five patients (27.8%) had persistent hydrocephalus after tumor resection and required a ventriculoperitoneal shunt.

CONCLUSION: Choroid plexus papilloma is a surgically curable disease. Postoperative EVD was considered effective in lowering the rate of shunt requirement through releasing the blood-tinged CSF and small particles of tumor residue.

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