Cranial pilocytic astrocytoma with spinal drop metastasis in an adult: case report and literature review.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: Pilocytic astrocytoma (PA) is a benign neoplasm that typically occurs in the brain within the pediatric and adolescent age groups and is uncommon in adults. It rarely occurs within the ventricles and the overall prognosis is favourable. A pilocytic astrocytoma of the brain with spinal metastasis at presentation has never been reported in an adult.

CASE DESCRIPTION: We report a case of a 47-year-old male presenting with sudden onset frontal headache associated with nausea and lethargy. This was on a background of a longer history of back pain and headache. Radiological imaging revealed an acute intraparenchymal hemorrhage in the right parietooccipital lobes with intraventricular extension within a peripherally enhancing heterogenous lesion. MRI spine revealed a sacral intradural tumor. The patient underwent surgical resection of the intracranial mass followed by debulking of the spinal lesion. Histopathological study revealed that both the cranial and spinal tumors were Pilocytic Astrocytoma.

CONCLUSION: This case illustrates a unique instance of hemorrhage into a cerebral pilocytic astrocytoma with a spinal metastasis. To our knowledge, this is the first such case reported in an adult. We review the literature on the subject.

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KEYWORDS: Adult; Low grade glioma Metastasis; Pilocytic Astrocytoma

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