Massive jugular foramen schwannoma revealed by the hypoglossal paralysis

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Clinical image description

Jugular foramen schwannomas are a rare event with an estimated 200 cases reported in the literature. These tumors represent only 2.9% to 4% of all intracranial schwannomas and less than 1% of all temporal bone lesions [1,2].

In addition to the rarity of these tumors, their variable presentation, varying degrees of cranial nerve involvement, and multiple treatment options make each case unique. Signs and symptoms of patients often overlap with meningiomas, glomus jugular tumors, and occasionally vestibular schwannomas, making it difficult to differentiate preoperatively from jugular foramen schwannomas [3,4].

Modern imaging techniques are very helpful in diagnosis by distinguishing jugular foramen schwannomas from the more common jugular bulb. Computed Tomography (CT) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) are often complementary and can show the extent of the tumor and also distinguish schwannomas from other tumors [5].

We report a case of a 55 years old man with no medical history presented to the consultation with a tongue’s right latero-degation has been developing for a year. The physical examination revealed a paralysis of the right hypoglossal nerve without other associated signs, in particular nodysphonia or facial paralysis and no hearing loss. The MRI showed a 25 mm mass in the jugular foramen is what caused this one to expand. Regarding the extensive nature of the masse, the patient was referred to oncology for gamma knife radiotherapy.

Figure 2: T2 axial section [A] and coronal section [B]. showing a 25 mm mass in the jugular foramen in hypersignal T1.

Figure 3: T1 gadolinium injected axial section showing a 25 mm mass in the jugular foramen with intense enhancement.

References