

Case Report

A Rare Case of En Plaque Meningioma Causing an Effusive Chronic Otitis Media

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Abstract

In daily practice, every otolaryngologist sees dozens of cases of chronic secretive otitis media. Suspicion must arise when the otitis occurs unilaterally. A rhinopharyngeal pathology will therefore be excluded. An en plaque meningioma can cause an unilateral serous otitis. This diagnosis is exceptional, but it is possible and rarely reported in Literature.

Keywords: En plaque meningioma; chronic monolateral otitis media

Case Description

In this case we have a 64-year-old woman complaining of a right hearing loss for many years. At otomicroscopy we found a right effusive otitis media (Figure 1). With tonal audiometry we found a severe mixed right hearing loss and a left-handed normoacusia (Figure 2). The right tympanogram was flat (type B).

We performed a negative rhinofibrosomy. So after three months of observation and local therapy with nasal corticosteroid and tubal gymnastics with Otovent, we placed a transtympanic tube, with good hearing recovery. After six months the tube was expelled



Figure 1: Otomicroscopy: Right tympanic membrane, with epitympanic bulging and middle chronic effusive otitis.



Figure 3: CT left ear: Normal left middle ear.



Figure 4: CT right ear: Hyperostotic reshaped right temporal bone (see arrows).

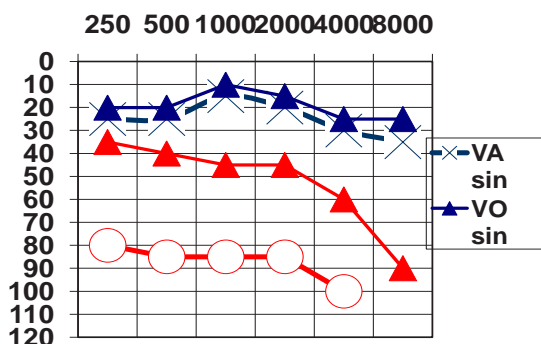


Figure 2: Tonal Audiometry: A severe mixed right hearing loss and a left-handed normoacusia.

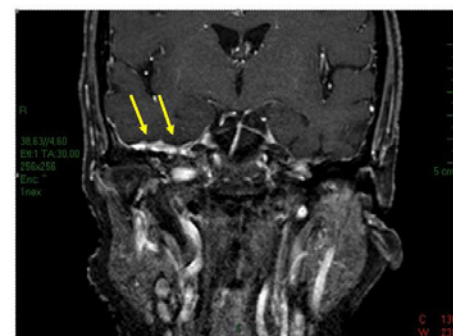


Figure 5: MRI: En plaque meningioma of right middle cranial fossa extending to the middle ear with intraosseous expansive lesion.

spontaneously. One month later secretive otitis has returned.

So we performed first a CT scan, finding a hyperostotic reshaped surface of the middle cranial fossa (Figure 3-4). Finally we executed a MRI, finding an en plaque meningioma with involvement of the bone surrounding the Eustachian tube (Figure 5).

Conclusions

An en plaque meningioma should be considered in the differential diagnosis of a chronic monolateral serous otitis media. In this case we would have reached a correct diagnosis in a short time by performing a MRI many years ago. So in case of monolateral chronic otitis, with normal nasopharynx, should we use imaging techniques routinely and without delay?

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