

Atypical Presentation of Temporal Dermoid Cyst: Case Report

Apresentação atípica de cisto dermoide temporal: caso clínico

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Abstract

Dermoid account for 0.04–0.06% of intracranial tumors. The rupture of these slow-growing lesions are a rare event, generally taking place spontaneously. Their presentation are clinically variable according to cyst topography and integrity. Surgery remains the first-line therapy and gross total resection should be attempted if feasible. We report on a case of a 22-year-old male with a 2-year history of seizures and cognitive impairment and a temporal mesial dermoid cyst successfully treated with gross total resection microsurgery.

Keywords

- dermoid cyst
- seizures
- brain tumor

Resumo

Os Cistos dermoides compreendem 0,04–0,06% dos tumores intracranianos. É uma lesão de crescimento lento, e sua ruptura é um evento raro e espontâneo. A variabilidade clínica vai de acordo com a topografia do cisto e sua integridade. A cirurgia continua a ser a terapia de primeira linha, e a ressecção total é a opção sempre que for possível. Os autores relatam um caso de paciente com 22 anos de idade com histórico de 2 anos de convulsões e comprometimento cognitivo e diagnosticado com um cisto dermoide mesial temporal, tratado com sucesso com ressecção microcirúrgica.

Palavras-chave

- cisto dermoide
- crise convulsiva
- tumor cerebral

Introduction

Dermoid and epidermoid cysts are benign that become neurenteric cysts due to errors during gastrulation. In dermoid cysts, this occurs between the third and fifth week of the embryonic period, with the inclusion of heterotopic

elements of the ectoderm during the closure of the neural tube. Its contents include hair and hair follicles, sebaceous glands and sweat.^{1,2} Dermoid cysts account for 0.04 to 0.06% of intracranial tumors, with typical location in the midline of the posterior fossa and predominance in females. These cysts are sometimes associated to Klippel-Feil syndrome. In

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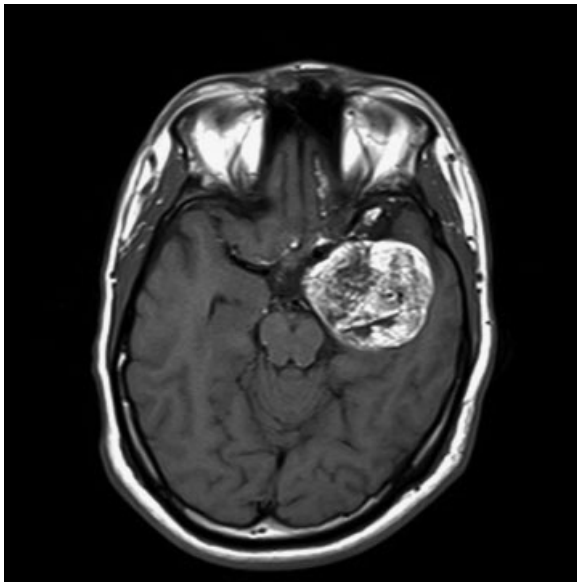


Fig. 1 BRAIN MRI, T1 weighted sequence with temporal lesion well delineated, heterogeneous, predominance of increased signal.

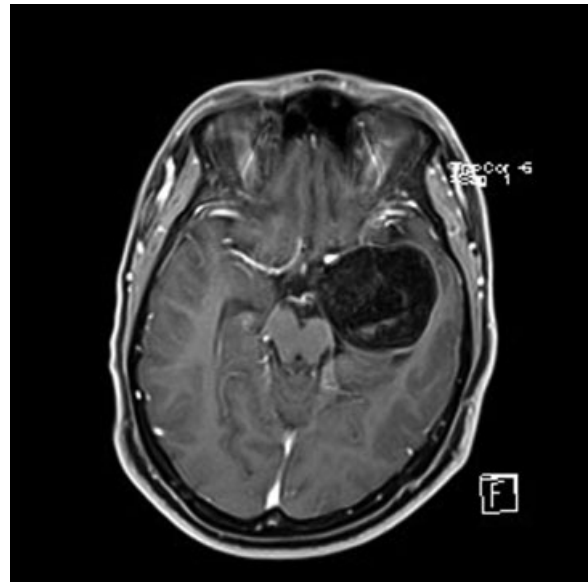


Fig. 3 BRAIN MRI T1GD weighted sequence with low contrast enhancement and evidence of a cystic content.

parallel with epidermoid cysts, dermoid cysts are more frequently found as intracranial lesions than spinal lesions, and usually as solid tumors, affecting adolescents and young adults (mean age 15–16).^{1–3}

Clinical Presentation and Diagnosis

The dermoid cyst is a slow-growing lesion, through the exfoliation of epithelial cells and secretion of the sebaceous glands. There seems to be a relationship between age and growth and rupture, probably due to a hormonal mechanism in adolescents.⁴ It is manifested clinically when the size of

the cyst causes the compression of surrounding structures, when there is a rupture of the cyst (aseptic meningitis of Mollaret), or when it is infected. Symptoms include headache, nausea, vomiting, cerebellar syndrome, cranial nerve deficit, paresis, seizures, signs of meningism, and fever. These vary with the topography of the lesion, presence of breakage and/or infection of their contents.^{1,4,5}

Upon physical examination, it is important to search for dermal sinuses, which may be associated with underlying dermoid cysts (e.g., dermal occipital sinus and cerebellar; spinal dysraphism dermoid cyst and Spinalis dermoid cyst), which, for being in contiguity, constitute a doorway for infection and formation of abscesses in the cysts. Neuroimaging tests, especially the computed tomography (CT) scan and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) help in the diagnosis. In a skull CT, dermoid cysts appear as very dense lesions without iodized contrast uptake. In RNM, on the other hand, they appear as heterogeneous lesions with hypersignal in T1WI and T2WI. This is explained by their high cholesterol content without contrast uptake in T1GD.^{1,5,6}

When there is suspicion of rupture of the cyst and/or meningism during physical examination, the specialist must conduct the cerebrospinal fluid analysis. Mollaret's aseptic meningitis evolves with osteoblasts at 26% predominance of lymphocytic and high protein concentration on CSF.^{1,5}

Case Report

C.A.P, male, 22 years old, previously healthy, from the state of Bahia. Referred to Neurosurgery outpatients service/HCFMUSP with a 2 years history of intermittent episodes of partial seizures in the right upper limb and progressive memory loss, culminating in December 2012 with generalized tonic-clonic seizures. General physical examination: without notable changes neurological exam: alert and

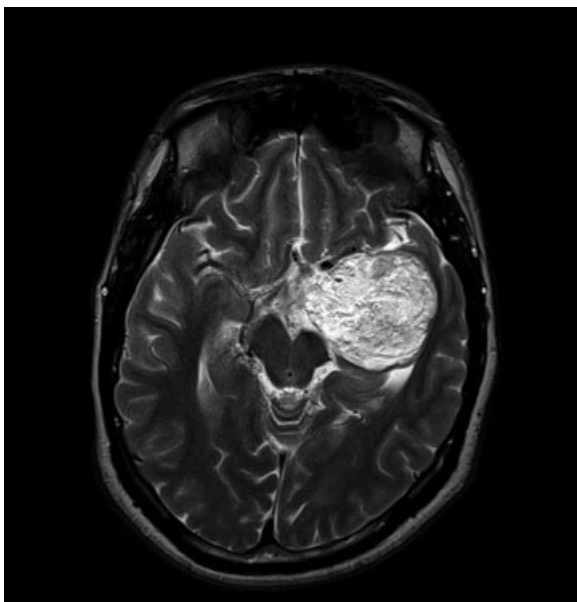


Fig. 2 BRAIN MRI RM T2 weighted sequence with temporal lesion well delineated, heterogeneous, predominance of increased signal.

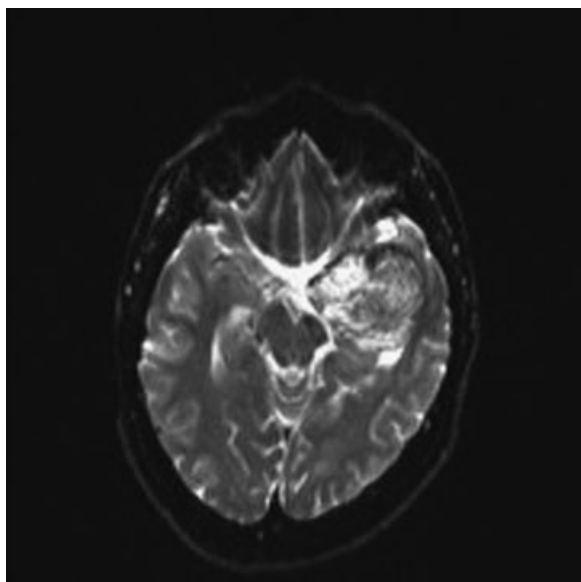


Fig. 4 BRAIN MRI DWI sequence with signs suggestive of rupture of cystic content to the sub-arachnoid space.

oriented. No gait impairment, normal muscular strength, sensitivity, ocular mobility, normal Funduscopy examination.

Neuroimaging exams revealed a left temporal lesion suggestive of dermoid cyst (► **Figs. 1–4**). In June 2013, the patient

was submitted to surgery: left temporal craniotomy and microscopic total tumor resections. During surgical planning, the authors took into account the position of the left middle cerebral artery (► **Fig. 5**). On the immediate post op the patient evolved without any clinical or radiological complications (as seen on ► **Fig. 6**). In the 4th post-operative, patient evolved with symptoms of Meningitis, and after lumbar CSF analysis was confirmed (pattern of aseptic meningitis), the patient remained hospitalized for 14 days for antibiotic therapy. Discharged without complaints, during the 1st month follow-up the patient denied new episodes of seizures.

The anatomical and pathological study of the surgical piece confirmed dermoid cyst diagnosis.

Discussion

Until today, surgery aiming a total resection is still the most appropriate conduct when facing a dermoid cyst, and should always be attempted without rupturing the capsule to reduce the chance of local recurrence or aseptic meningitis. However, total resection is not always possible because these lesions can be usually related with important neurovascular structures.^{1,7}

In the case in question, despite the atypical location, characteristic neuroimaging examinations allowed bringing the chance of dermoid cyst, corroborated by the anatomical and pathological study.^{1,7}

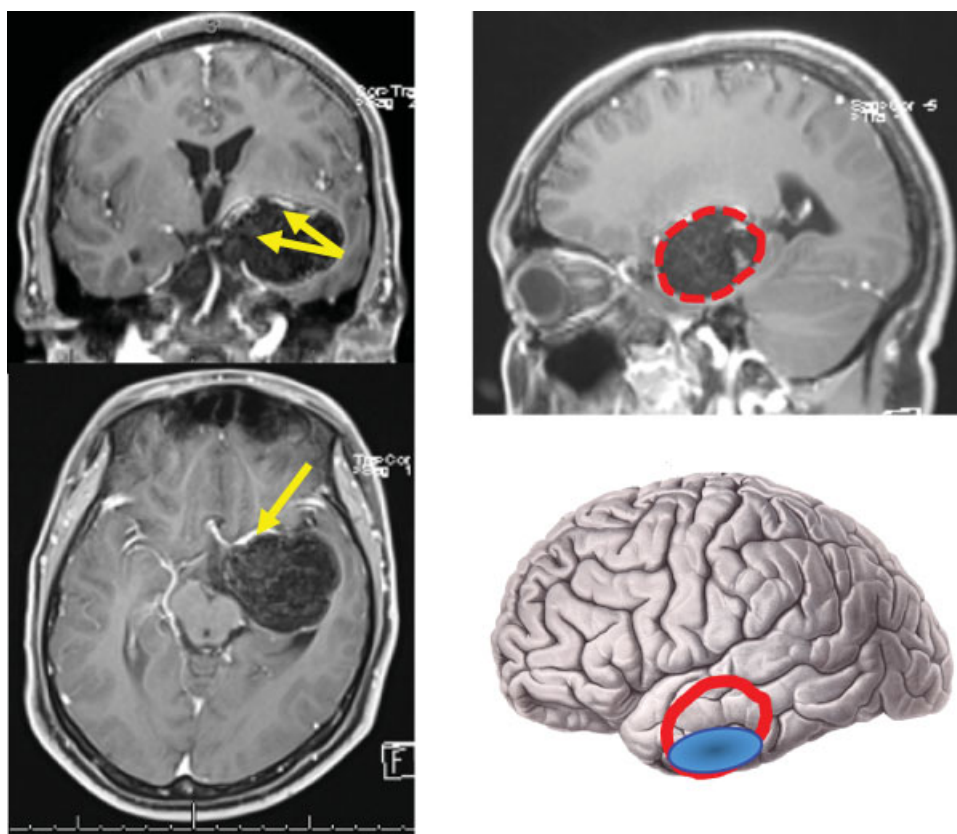


Fig. 5 Surgical planning taking into account the displacement of the left middle cerebral artery and the surgical relation with the middle and inferior temporal gyrus.

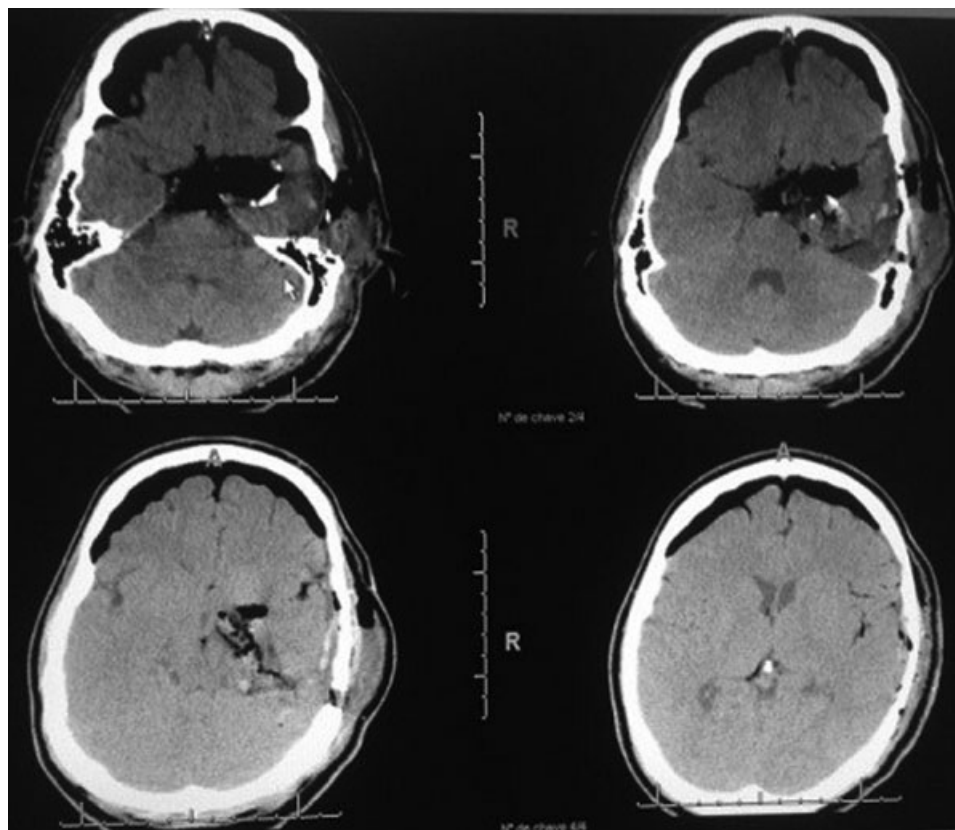


Fig. 6 Post operative brain CT.

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