

Ethmoiditis in Adults in a Developing Community

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ABSTRACT

Set in the background of ethmoidal diseases, this paper deals with inflammation of this organ in adults of the Ibo ethnic group in South Eastern Nigeria. Three cases were found and are thought to be worthy of documentation.

Keywords: Ethmoid, Ethmoiditis, Adults, Developing community

INTRODUCTION

Both Dorland's Illustrated Dictionary [1] and Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary [2] throw some light on ethmoiditis. A literature search revealed some interesting examples. From Finland [3], the report was "We report an unusual case of breast cancer metastasis presenting as ethmoiditis MRI." From USA, 33 cases of ethmoiditis were reviewed with special reference to orbital complications [4].

INVESTIGATION

Birmingham (UK) associates maintained that the establishment of a histopathology data pool facilitates

epidemiological analysis [5]. In this context, the one established by the Eastern Region Government of Nigeria at Enugu facilitated my pioneer work. The tabulated cases are its results which are deemed to be worthy of documentation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An unusual case of breast cancer was reported from Finland on account of its presentation as ethmoiditis [3]. From USA, 33 cases of ethmoiditis were reported on account of orbital complications based on the classification dating back to 1982 [4] (Table 1).

Table 1. Epidemiological data on ethmoiditis.

No	Initials	Age	Sex	Microscopic appearances
1	AA	60	M	Inflammatory infiltrates abound
2	CC	33	M	Acute upon chronic inflammation
3	OK	50	M	Granulomatous inflammation

None of the complications was seen in this local cohort. Perhaps, what was remarkable can be seen to be merely nonspecific or granulomatous inflammation. In other words, the patients arrived relatively early for treatment instead of the better known late tendency in this developing community [6].

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