

Lymphoma of the Ethmoid in a Developing Community

Wilson IB Onuigbo^{1*} and Basil C Ezeanolue²

¹Department of Pathology, The University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu, Nigeria

²Department of Otolaryngology, The University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu, Nigeria.

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ABSTRACT

Single cases of lymphoma of the ethmoid are rare reports from several countries. Therefore, the present case is from the Ibo ethnic group, which is domiciled in the South Eastern Region of Nigeria. Unlike world patterns, the patient was a child.

Keywords: Ethmoid, Lymphoma, Rarity, Developing community

INTRODUCTION

The ethmoid is a rare site of occurrence of lymphoma. In alphabetical order, individual reports were published in Brazil [1], China [2], Croatia [3], Italy [4], Japan [5] and USA [6]. Therefore, the case from among the Ibo ethnic group [7], which is domiciled in the South Eastern Region of Nigeria, is deemed to be worthy of documentation.

CASE REPORT

OC, a 12 year old boy, attended the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu, where he was seen by Dr. Basil Ezeanolue. The complaint was of left ethmoidal mass protruding for 3 years. The biopsy consisted of several irregular, flat, pale masses with softish portions. On microscopy by the corresponding author, normal tissue was not seen apart from the mucosa beneath which there were lymphoid tumor cells in malignant disorder. Focal calcification was also noted. Therefore, malignant lymphoma was diagnosed.

DISCUSSION

The microscopical appearances were as in previously reported cases in respect of bone [8], palate [9] and breast [10]. There was even a forensic example of it in a teenager [11].

Curiously, our patient was a child. In contrast, all the above cited cases ranged in age from 42 years in China [2] to 79 years in Japan [5].

Our patient had a localized lesion. In the case from South Korea [12], it was stated that the ethmoid sinus being involved with the epiglottis is rare. In the Japanese case [5], the tumor was invasive into the eye and nose.

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Corresponding author: Wilson IB Onuigbo, Department of Pathology, The University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu, Nigeria, E-mail: wilson.onuigbo@gmail.com

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