IMAGES IN OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY

Osteoma of the Internal Auditory Canal

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Osteoma del conducto auditivo interno

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A 74 year-old woman with no relevant clinical history visited the emergency department following head trauma. Study showed no signs of intra or extra-axial haemorrhage or fracture lines. Oedema was visible on the soft frontal parts, with a minimum subgaleal haematoma and small intraorbital (extracanal) gas bubbles.

By chance a pedunculated bone lesion was noticed measuring approximately 11.1 mm (Figs. 1 and 2), originating in the upper edge of the left acoustic pore (Fig. 3), with a "mushroom"-like morphology (Figs. 1 and 2). The lesion nucleus is composed of spongy bone and the periphery is composed of compact bone, both of which are continuously joined to the petrosa. The rest of the internal auditory duct is normal in calibre and morphology. These findings are compatible with osteoma of the internal auditory duct.

The main differential diagnosis must be performed for exostosis. Unlike the osteoma in this case, this entity usually takes the form of multiple bilateral lesions with a broad implantation base. They are wholly composed of compact bone, and secondarily reduce the diameter of the internal auditory duct.

The clinical symptoms described in association with osteoma of the acoustic pore involve alterations in hearing and balance, although they may also be asymptomatic. The most suitable treatment will be decided on the basis of symptoms, or otherwise only lesion development will be monitored.


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Figure 1
Osteoma of the Internal Auditory Canal

Figure 2

Figure 3