A case of tuberculum sellae meningioma with “beak of Kiwi bird” enhancement in MRI: surgical resection and nursing care

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Abstract: Here, we reported a case of tuberculum sellae meningioma with “beak of Kiwi bird” enhancement in contrast MRI at our department. The female patient was 32-year-old, suffering from progressive loss of vision for about 6 months. Head CT & MRI scan identified an intracranial meningioma located on tuberculum sellae, with obvious “beak of Kiwi bird” enhancement in contrast MRI. Trans-anterior skull base approach was applied to perform the operation after patient consent. The meningioma was completely resected by Symptom grade II. The patient recovered well without complication after post-operation nursing case. Histological findings revealed meningothelial meningioma with EMA (+), Vimentin (+) and PR (+).

Keywords: Tuberculum sellae meningioma; beak of Kiwi bird; nursing care

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Introduction

Intracranial meningiomas are common brain tumors derived from arachnoidal cells and account for about 30% of all primary brain tumors (1). Most meningiomas are histologically classified as benign brain tumors (WHO grade I), however, about 10% meningiomas belong to atypical (WHO grade II) or anaplastic (WHO grade III) subtypes (2-4). Tuberculum sellae meningiomas arise from the dura of tuberculum sellae, chiasmatic sulcus, limbus sphenoidale, and diaphragma sellae. Tuberculum sellae meningiomas grow in the subchiasmal area compressing the optic nerves, thus they would cause very distinctive clinical and imaging features. For instance, tuberculum sellae meningiomas usually elevate the optic nerves and chiasm, and early optic canal involvement is very common as well (5-8). When the tumor is small, the arachnoidal plane is well and the tumor only compresses the chiasmatic cistern. However, when the tumor is growing, the optic nerves will be invaded, which will cause vision deterioration.

Here, we described a very typical tuberculum sellae meningiomas with “beak of Kiwi bird” enhancement in contrast MRI at our department from clinical and radiological image characters, surgical and neuropathological features, which was rarely reported in literature.

Case presentation

A 32-year-old female patient suffered from progressive loss of vision for about 6 months. The patient was alert at admission and Glasgow coma scale (GCS) was 15. Her bilateral pupils were round and equal with diameters of 2.5 mm, and light reflex was regular. Muscle strength and tension was normal, and Babinski sign was negative. But the vision acuity and visual field were badly affected.

Head CT & MRI scan identified an intracranial meningioma located on tuberculum sellae (Figure 1A). After contrast MRI, the tumor was homogenously enhanced with obvious meninges tail sign (Figure 1B,C), which was just like the “beak of Kiwi bird” on the images (Figure 1D,E). Brain computed tomography angiography (CTA) showed bilateral anterior carotid arteries (ACA) were compressed by the tumor (Figure 1F).
Surgical resection

Trans-anterior skull base approach was applied to perform the operation after patient consent. During the operation, the dura was opened and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was released to decrease the intracranial pressure. The longitudinal fissure was retracted and the tumor was exposed. The tumor was red and soft with moderate blood supply. The base of the tumor was located on tuberculum sellae dura. First, we cut the blood supply from its base, then the tumor was removed by pieces (Figure 2A). Finally, Simpson grade II resection of the meningioma was achieved. After tumor resection, the bilateral internal carotid arteries (ICA), ACA and optic nerves were protected well (Figure 2B). The surgical procedure was performed without complication and the patient was recovered well.

Pathological findings

Histological findings revealed meningothelial meningioma with lobules formed by tumor cells (Figure 3A). Like normal arachnoidal cap cells, the tumor cells are largely uniform, with oval nuclei. The tumor cells have delicate chromatin that sometimes show central clearing, or the formulation of cytoplasmic-nuclear inclusions (4). For immunohistochemical staining, the tumor cells were positive for epithelial membrane antigen (EMA) (+), Vimentin (+), progesterone receptor (PR) (+) and CD34 (+) (Figure 3B-D). The tumor cells were negative for glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) and S100 (Figure 3E). The MIB-1 index was about 5% (Figure 3F).

Post-operation nursing care

Post-operation nursing care is very important for such patients with tuberculum sellae meningiomas. After operation, the patient was carefully cared by nurses at our department. Daily fluid input and output volume was recorded and kept steady, especially the urine volume, in order to keep the internal environment in balance, including the electrolyte. If the urine volume was over certain level, desmopressin is necessary for the control of it. Epilepsy may
occur sometimes, thus tongue-spatula should be prepared at bedside in order to prevent tongue-bite injury, and fall-down should be avoided. Pituitary function deficiency was observed in this patient, and prednisone was intake three times a day for about two weeks. Finally, the patient was recovered well and discharged without any complication and neurological deficits.

Discussion

Intracranial meningiomas are common brain tumors derived from arachnoidal cells and account for about 30% of all primary brain tumors (1,9). Tuberculum sellae meningioma refers to the meningioma arising from the tuberculum sellae, anterior clinoid process, diaphragma sellae, or planum sphenoidale. It represents about 10% of...
all intracranial meningiomas. Progressive visual loss is the leading symptom due to the tumor mass effect on the optic chiasm and optic nerves (10).

In our report, we described an interesting case of tuberculum sellae meningioma. The meningioma was uniformly enhanced in contrast MRI scan with meninges tail sign, just like the “beak of Kiwi bird” (Figure 1), which was rarely reported (11). The patient underwent trans-anterior skull base craniotomy surgery after consent. During the operation, the tumor was carefully separated and totally resected by Sympton grade II. The ACA, optical nerves and optic chiasm were preserved well after tumor resection (Figure 2). The pathological identification revealed typical meningotheial meningioma characteristics with lobules formed by tumor cells (Figure 3). The tumor cells were immunohistochemical positive for EMA (+), Vimentin (+), PR (+) and CD34 (+).

Nursing care is very important for tuberculum sellae meningioma patients after operation (12,13). Because the most common post-operative complications, such as diabetes insipidus, seizure attack and pituitary function deficiency may occur. Daily fluid input and output volume, especially the urine volume should be recorded by nurses and kept in balance. Tongue-spatula should be prepared at bedside in case of tongue bite injury caused by seizure attack, and protective restrictions should be applied to avoid fall-down. In some patients, pituitary function deficiency maybe very troublesome, thus we advice prednisone uptake daily in order to prevent hypothalamic syndrome for such patients.

Conclusions

In our paper, we reported a case of tuberculum sellae meningioma with “beak of Kiwi bird” enhancement in contrast MRI at our department. The female patient suffered from progressive loss of vision for about 6 months. Head CT & MRI scan identified an intracranial meningioma located on tuberculum sellae, with obvious “beak of Kiwi bird” enhancement in contrast MRI. Trans-anterior skull base approach was applied to perform the operation after patient consent. Finally the meningioma was completely resected by Sympton grade II. The patient recovered well without neurological deficits after careful post-operation nursing care. Histological findings revealed meningotheial meningioma with EMA (+), Vimentin (+) and PR (+).

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Footnote

Conflicts of Interest: The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Informed Consent: Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for publication of this Case report and any accompanying images. A copy of the written consent is available for review by the Editor-in-Chief of this journal.

References
