

Case Report



Isolated intracranial Rosai-Dorfman disease in an adult man: Report of a rare case

Somaye Rezaei^{1#}, Fariba Zarzanalivan^{1#}, Pouya Pirouti², Mohammad Reza Amiri Nikpour¹, Abdolreza Javadi^{3*}, Shahram Torkamandi^{4,5*}¹Department of Neurology, Imam Khomeini Hospital, Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Urmia, Iran²Islamic Azad University of Urmia, Urmia, Iran³Department of Pathology, Imam Hossein Hospital, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran⁴Neurophysiology Research Center, Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Urmia, Iran⁵Department of Immunology and Medical Genetics, Faculty of Medicine, Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Urmia, Iran

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Abstract

Background: Isolated intracranial Rosai-Dorfman disease (RDD) is an extremely rare, idiopathic histo-proliferative disorder. RDD is associated with the proliferation of histiocytes and emperipolesis.**Case Presentation:** we report a case with isolated intracranial RDD. A 47-year-old man presented with a dizziness, falling, and then secondary generalized seizure, hemiparesis and right hemisensory deficit. This case preoperatively was misdiagnosed with meningioma. Histopathological examination revealed pale histiocytes displaying emperipolesis which were positive for S-100 and CD68 proteins and negative for CD1a marker. *BRAF*^{V600E} mutation was negative.**Conclusion:** In this case, total resection was performed and clinical symptoms were regressed completely.

Background

Rosai-Dorfman disease (RDD), also known as sinus histiocytosis is a rare idiopathic disease that is characterized by bilateral massive and painless lymphadenopathy. It was first recognized by Rosai and Dorfman in 1969.¹ About 43% of patients were reported with extranodal involvement including skin, upper respiratory system, bones and orbits.² Central nervous system (CNS) involvement is extremely rare and due to rarity of RDD, it is not usually proposed in intracranial lesions diagnosis. RDD radiologically mimics meningioma and dural metastasis as dural-based lesions and histologically mimics plasma cell granuloma, Langerhans cell histiocytosis (LCH) and lymphoproliferative disease.³ Here, we presented in details a 47-year-old man who had an extremely rare isolated intracranial involvement of RDD.

Case Presentation

A 47-year-old man presented with symptoms of dizziness, falling, and then secondary generalized seizure appearing

by jerking of right upper limbs and loss of consciousness. After the attack, he developed hemiparesis and remained confused until 3 hours. Thereafter, the generalized tonic-clonic seizure occurred lasting for 20 seconds, followed by 2 hours of postictal confusion. Neurological examinations revealed hemiparesis (right upper extremity strength was 4/5 and right lower extremity strength was 3/5), and right hemisensory deficit. There was no evidence of papilledema, cranial nerve deficit, and cerebellar signs. Furthermore, there were not any systemic symptoms such as fever, weight loss, night sweet, and joints involvement. On systemic examination, there were no lymphadenopathy and hepatosplenomegaly. The hemiparesis partially improved in less than 24 hours. The family history of tumor was negative. Brain computed tomography (CT) revealed a hyperdense lesion in the left parietal lobe and consequently vasogenic edema was noted around the lesion. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed an iso-hypo signal extra-axial mass measuring 65 × 51 × 15 mm at left, with homogeneously dense enhancement after

*Corresponding Authors: Shahram Torkamandi, Email: torkamandi.shahram@yahoo.co.uk, Abdolreza Javadi, Email: reza.javadi@sbmu.ac.ir

These authors contributed equally to this manuscript

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contrast agent administration and there was an enhancing dural tail. T1-weighted image showed iso-hypointense lesion and predominant hypointense on T2-weighted images and fluid-attenuated inversion recovery (FLAIR) images (Figure 1). Meningioma and dural metastatic lesion were made as main differential diagnosis; also neurosarcoidosis and infectious disease such as fungal granuloma, tuberculosis and syphilis were suggested as differential diagnosis with less possibility.

To rule out the metastatic lesions, we performed abdominopelvic, prostate and testis ultrasonography, chest and abdominal CT scans with/without contrast and the whole body scan that were unremarkable. Routine biochemical and hematologic investigations and erythrocyte sedimentation rate, C-reactive protein and prostate specific antigen were within the reference range. Hepatitis B surface antigen, HIV antibody, venereal disease research laboratory and purified protein derivative were also negative. The patient was started on anti-epileptic drug (phenytoin). He was treated with steroid in order to decrease brain edema before the surgery and then the drug was discontinued. The tumor was dural-based, gray-white, and well circumscribed that was totally resected. One month after surgery, phenytoin was tapered down and stopped. The patient was followed up after almost three months; he was well without the recurrence of any clinical symptoms.

RDD was found on pathological examination. Hematoxylin and eosin stain showed small pieces of meningeal tissue with nodular structures composed of lymph aggregations with few germinal centers and proliferations of spindle cells that were embedded in collagenous tissue (Figure 2 A-B); there were scattered areas of hyalinization and fibrosis (Figure 2 C). The collections of histiocytes with vesicular nuclei and abundant eosinophilic cytoplasm exhibiting lymphocyte and neutrophil emperipolesis (lymphophagocytosis) were seen (Figure 2D). Immunohistochemical staining results

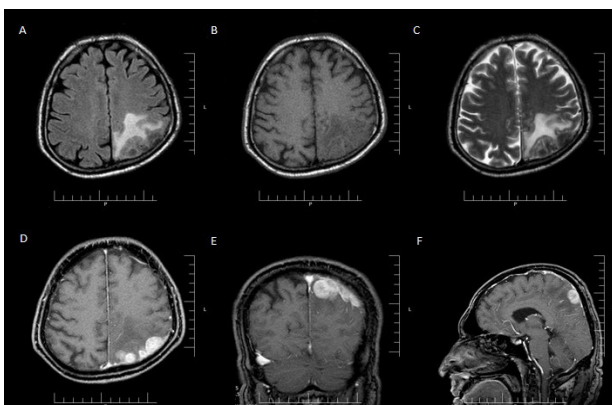


Figure 1. FLAIR, T1 and T2 weighted showed iso-hypointense parietal lobe lesion with surrounding edema (A-C). T1 weighted with enhancement showed extra axial and dural-based densely enhanced lesion (D-F).

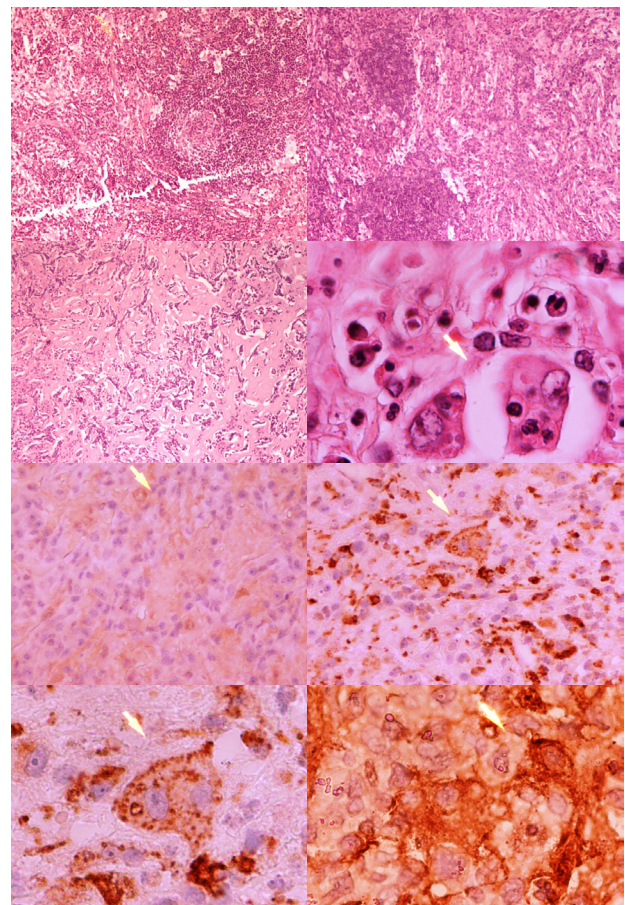


Figure 2. Photomicrograph of dural-based mass, exhibiting nodular structures composed of lymph aggregations with few germinal centers and proliferations of spindle cells (A). Nodular lymphocytic aggregation (dark areas) and histiocytic collections (Light areas) (B). Extensive areas of hyalinization and collagen depositions (C). Histiocytes shows characteristic feature of lymphocytes and neutrophils emperipolesis (D). Immunohistochemical staining demonstrates diffuse strong positivity for cytoplasmic S100 and CD68 protein with negative expression of CD1a (E-H). Scale bar: 10 μ m.

showed diffuse strong positivity for cytoplasmic S100 and CD68 protein with negative expression of CD1a (Figure 2E-H).

For *BRAF*^{V600E} mutation analysis, DNA was extracted from unstained paraffin-embedded tissue with 30 percent tumor and was checked with PCR-Pyrosequencing method. No mutation had been identified in *BRAF* gene.

Discussion

RDD or sinus histiocytosis with massive lymphadenopathy is a rare, idiopathic and reactive disorder which is characterized by a benign lymph node lymphohistiocytic proliferative condition.⁴ RDD is a systemic histoproliferative disease mostly characterized by massive painless cervical lymphadenopathy, but 30%-40% of patients present with extra nodal involvement; most commonly the skin, nasal cavity, paranasal sinus,

orbit, salivary gland, bone, testis and CNS. Less than 5% of patients are presented by only CNS involvement which 75% of them is in brain and the rest is in spinal cord.⁵ The cause of RDD remains controversial. Some studies demonstrated that autoimmune process triggered by Epstein-Bars virus, human papilloma virus type 6, parvovirus B19 and immune system impairment might play a role in RDD pathogenesis.⁶ RDD has mainly been reported in childhood and young adults in the second and third decade of life.⁷ Constitutional symptoms are generally absent in the patients with CNS involvement. Neurological symptoms vary depending on the size, location and number of lesions; seizure and headache are the most common complaint in RDD patients.⁸ Other symptoms include focal neurological deficits hemiparesis, visual disturbance, gait impairment, cranial nerve deficit, hearing loss and pituitary dysfunction.⁹ The present patient came with the symptoms of seizure and acute hemiparesis.

Neuroimaging commonly shows extra-axial dural-based lesions that enhance homogeneously, making the disease to be usually misdiagnosed with meningioma. The MRI, usually T1-weighted shows hypo- or isointense lesions with well-defined border that after gadolinium administration have dense homogenous enhancement and dural-tail sign. On T2-weighted image, the lesions are isointense or slightly hyperintense.¹⁰ In our report, the lesion was iso to hypointense on T1-weighted and predominantly hypointense on T2-weighted MRI images and was markedly enhanced. Dural-based tail was determined after contrast agent administration. Therefore, this case was preoperatively misdiagnosed with meningioma and less possibly dural metastasis, infectious disease, and neurosarcoidosis but more investigations for metastatic lesion and inflammatory disease ruled out these diagnoses.

Plasma cell rich granuloma, lymphoplasmacyte rich meningioma, LCH and RDD were made as histologic differential diagnosis on the surgery resected biopsy. Chronic inflammation with infiltrate of lymphocytes, plasma cells and histiocytes in the fibrous stroma can be seen microscopically. Some large histiocytes engulfing lymphocytes are noted as emperipolesis, the most representative feature of RDD. Meningioma is also positive for S-100 but can be readily differentiated from RDD; meningioma highlights with epithelial membrane antigen, whereas they are not present in RDD. Plasma cell granuloma presents with discrete and dural-based inflammatory lesions and needs to be ruled out with immunohistochemistry; plasma cells are negative for S-100 protein and emperipolesis. LCH also expresses S-100 protein in histiocytes and can be presented as a dural-based lesion. LCH has characteristic nuclear groove and large number of eosinophils that contain pathognomonic Birbeck granule, irregular cell membrane and chromatin in electron microscopy. However, unlike

RDD, CD1a is strongly positive in LCH patients. In our case, the histiocytes positively stain for S-100 and CD68 and negatively for CD1a that were consistent with the diagnosis of RDD.¹¹

Recent studies have identified recurrent mutation in MAPK/ERK pathway genes in LCH, Erdheim-Chester disease and rarely in some RDD cases. Distinct mutation of MAPK/ERK pathway genes such as BRAF causes ERK over-activation and unrestrained cell proliferation in tumor. Fatobene et al founded *BRAF*^{V600E} mutation as a MAPK/ERK pathway gene in an 18-year-old RDD patient.¹² Richardson et al identified a single somatic deletion mutation in exon 12 of the *BRAF* gene.¹³ However, we did not find *BRAF*^{V600E} mutation in our case. The discordance between our results with the aforementioned studies may be a result of undetected mutations located in other exons and genes that we did not examine in this study and also different methodology.

Intracranial RDD is considered as a benign disease with good prognosis. Complete surgical resection is the best therapy, but subtotal resection is recommended as a safe approach for symptoms remission and diagnosis when the lesion is located near the critical structure.⁹ After surgery, patients usually improves and recurrence and development of neurological deficits have rarely been reported. Adjuvant therapy such as radiotherapy, chemotherapy and steroid can be utilized in the patients whose clinical symptoms are not improved, in some cases with recurrence and when resection of mass is not possible.¹⁴ In our case, the total resection was performed and clinical symptoms were completely regressed. However, a wait-and-watch is recommended as follow-up treatment.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no financial or other conflicts of interest in relation to this research and its publication.

Ethical Approval

This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Urmia, Iran. Additionally, informed consent was obtained from the patient.

Author's Contributions

S.R, F.Z and M.AN performed clinical examination and follow-up of the case; P.P obtained the specimen; A.J performed the pathological examination; S.T designed and performed sequencing and wrote the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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