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Recommended Citation

Abbas Zafar, A., Muhammad Shafi, M., Shaukat Malik, S., Pervez, S. (1997). Ossifying Fibroma of Nasal cavity. *Journal of Pakistan Medical Association*, 47(12), 312-313.

Available at: http://ecommons.aku.edu/pakistan_fhs_mc_pathol_microbiol/305

Ossifying Fibroma of Nasal Cavity

Pages with reference to book, From 312 To 313

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Introduction

Ossifying fibroma is a more slow-growing benign tumour of fibro osseous tissue which can behave in an unpredictable aggressive fashion¹. Pathologically, it is the process of replacement of normal osseous structures by fibrous connective tissue, containing calcification of various types and amounts². In the head and neck regions it can arise anywhere within the facial skeleton and skull³. The most common sites are mandible and maxilla⁴ with other sites having been reported sporadically such as parietal⁵, occipital⁶, temporal⁷ and sphenoid bones⁸, nasopharynx⁹, sella turcica¹⁰ and nasal cavity¹¹. The nasal cavity is one of the rarest sites for this lesion. On reviewing the literature, we could find only one case of ossifying fibroma in the nasal cavity reported so far¹¹.

Case Report

A 15 years old girl presented with a 6 months history of nasal obstruction, nasal deformity and headache. Examination revealed mild nasal deformity with grossly deviated nasal septum to the right. The left nasal cavity was completely occupied by a firm, pink coloured mass, which became pale on pressure. CT scan showed a predominantly non-enhancing, expansile mass in the left nasal cavity with expansion and sclerotic thickening of bony septum and lateral nasal wall (Figure 1).

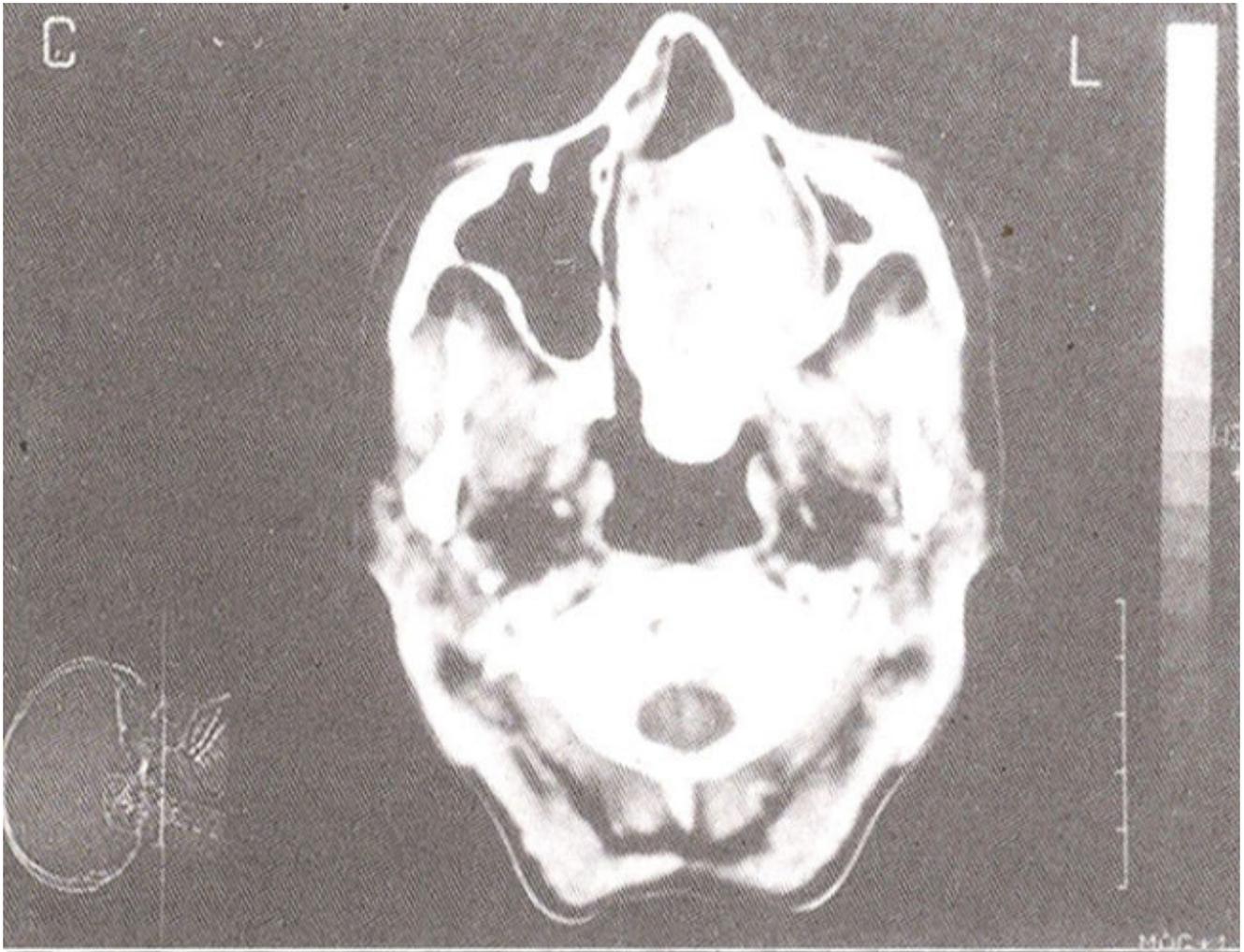


Figure 1. Axial post-contrast CT scan showing expansile, non enhancing mass in left nasal cavity with expansion and scalloping of bony septum and lateral nasal wall.

No bony destruction or extension into adjacent sinuses was noted. Biopsy of the mass showed fibrocellular lesion with deposition of osteoid and ossification consistent with ossifying fibroma. The tumour was completely removed via a lateral rhinotomy approach (Figure 2).

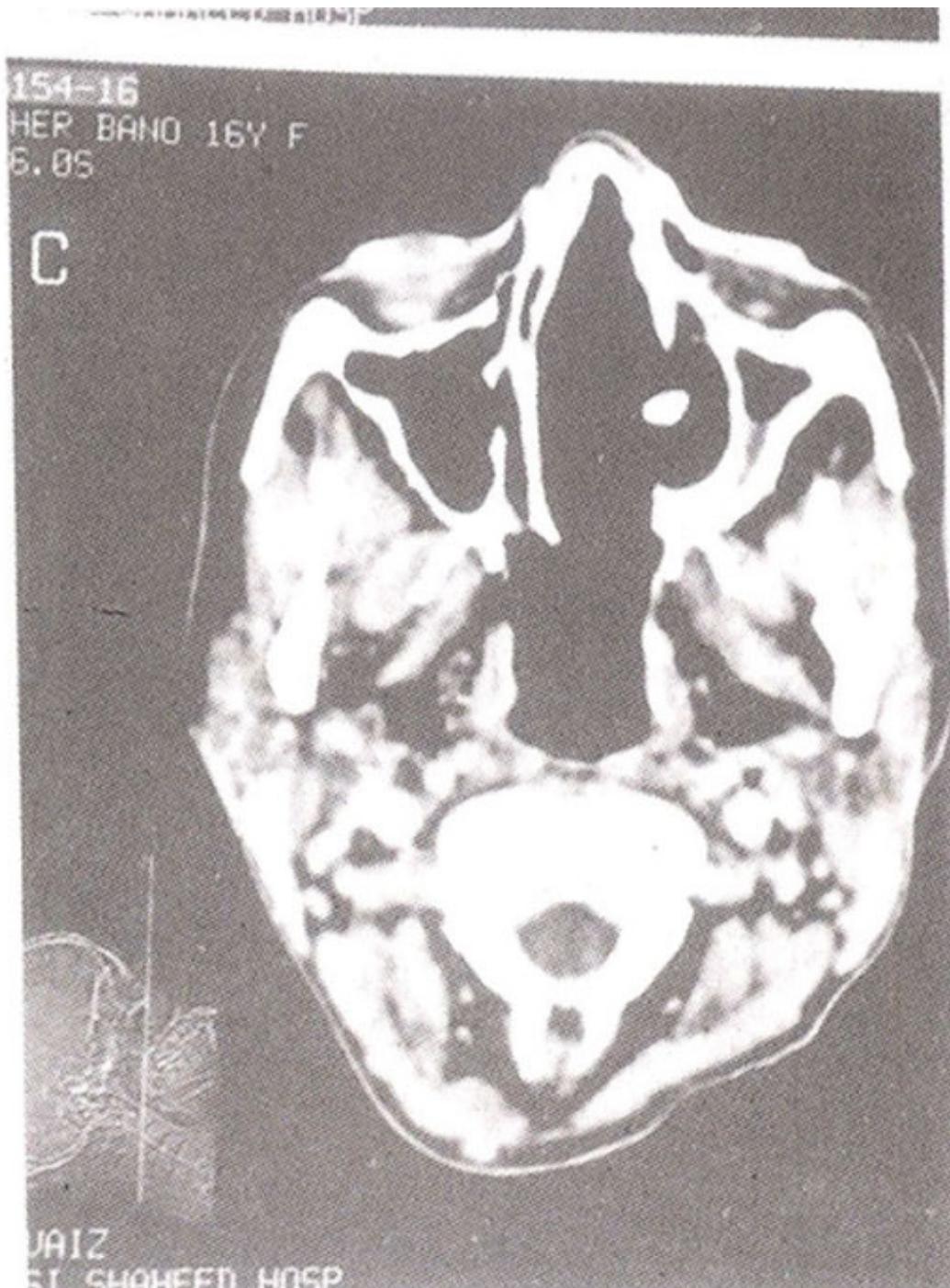


Figure 2. Post-operative contrast CT scan showing complete clearance of the nasal mass.

Histopathology of the specimen confirmed the diagnosis of ossifying fibroma after immunohistochemical staining with monoclonal antibodies. Three years follow-up showed no recurrence.

Discussion

The term ossifying Fibroma was first described by Menzel in 1872³. Being a lesion with fibrous and osseous components, it shares the histological picture with other lesions like fibrous dysplasia, cemento-ossifying fibroma and cementifying fibroma. However, ossifying fibroma is made of cellular

fibrous connective tissue stroma with varying degrees of cellularity and no mitotic activity. One may find trabeculae of lamellar bone, rimmed by osteoblasts. There are also numerous small rounded psammoma-like bodies present in the connective tissue in 60% of cases¹². The histopathology of the mass from nasal cavity in our case, revealed a cellular lesion comprising of spindle cells with elongated nuclei, exhibiting minimal degree of nuclear pleomorphism and hyperchromasia. Focally, laminated and granular calcification was seen with deposition of osteoid (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Fibro-cellular lesion with deposition of Osteoid and Ossification consistent with Ossifying fibroma (Mag=100X)

Differential diagnosis included ossifying fibroma and intra-nasal meningioma. To ascertain the tumour type, the sections were stained immunohistochemically with monoclonal antibodies against Vimentin, Alpha smooth muscle Actin (ASMA), Epithelial membrane Antigen (EMA) and cytokeratin. This lesion only showed reactivity to vimentin and no reactivity to other markers¹³. This is consistent with a fibrous lesion as most meningiomas show reactivity to EMA also.

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