

Isolated Sphenoid Sinus Disease: Review of Some Cases

Case Report**Abstract**

Isolated Sphenoid Sinus Disease is a rare disease that usually discovered by radiologic assessment, but it

could lead to serious complications if it is misdiagnosed, radiologic assessment has crucial role in the diagnosis of this lesions, and optimal treatment is still controversial.

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Omar Ramadan*

ENT Registrar, Al Adan Hospital, Kuwait

*Corresponding author: Omar Ramadan, ENT Registrar, Al Adan Hospital, Kuwait, Email: omarram982@hotmail.com

Received: August 05, 2016 | **Published:** August 29, 2016**Cases for Study**

- a. 35 year old male c/o meningitis with PMH of RTA, on CTS can a lesion was noticed in right sphenoid area on MRI the signal of lesion is similar TO CSF.
- b. 45 year old female c/o of recurrent headache on CT scan a lesion was noted on left sphenoid Sinus, the mucosa of the sinus is thickened and the bony wall of sphenoid sinus is thickened.
- c. 30 year old female c/o of acute onset of left eye proptosis, Left EOM movements are restricted on CT scan an expansible lesion destroying bone margins was noticed on left sphenoid spreading to left orbit with marginal enhancement.
- d. 66 year male c/o of gradual right vision loss, left sixth cranial nerve palsy, proptosis and headache since one year, on CT Scan a right sphenoid mass was noted spread to right orbit, nose, seller and cavernous sinus area, with moderate enhancement.
- e. 45 year old male c/o headache, on CT a lesion was noticed on left sphenoid with calcification.
- f. 9 year old female c/o of face and cranial malformation, on CT Scan a ground glass lesion was noticed on the right sphenoid.
- g. 28 year old male c/o of right nasal obstruction, on nasoscope a polypoid filling posterior choane area was observed, on CT scan polyp seemed to come from right sphenoid area with no enhancement.
- h. 30 year old male came emergency department c/o of acute onset headache, fever and decreased vision ability, on exam the EOM movements of both eyes were limited with conjunctival ecchymosis, meningeal irritation was also observed, on CT scan an air - liquid level was observed in sphenoid sinus with enhancement in cavernous sinus.
- i. 20 year old male with history of falling from height, come to you C/O left nasal epistaxis and gradual onset of pulsation in left eye. On CT-Scan lesion was noticed in left sphenoid.
- j. 35 year old female come to your clinic c/o of left chronic nasal obstruction on nasoscope a fleshy polypoid mass noticed in the posterior choane, On CT Scan polypoid mass from left sphenoid sinus was observed with mild enhancement.
- k. 40 year old obese lady c/o of chronic postural headache with salty taste in her throat on CT scan la lesion was observed in left sinus of sphenoid sinus. on MRI signal of this lesion is similar to CSF.

Introduction

Isolated sphenoid sinus lesion is a rare disorder, but it can lead to serious complications if it is misdiagnosed or mismanaged. The complications result from its anatomic relationship. Radiologic assessment has great role in the diagnosis of sphenoid lesions. The optimal management of isolated sphenoid lesion is still controversial [1].

Clinical symptoms [1-5]

- A. Asymptomatic: discovered accidentally during Head CT Scan
- B. Headache: is the most common symptom, but it is atypical, do not respond to analgesic and related to head movement, mostly located at vertex and per orbital area.
- C. Nasal symptoms: nasal obstruction, Ansonia, epistaxis nasal purulent discharge ,and clear nasal discharge are observed
- D. Eye symptom: diplopia, blurred vision and proptosis may be observed
- E. Neurologic symptom cranial nerve (III,IV,VI) paralysis, facial numbness due trigeminal irritation, vidian nerve involvement, vision loss due optic nerve compression, meningitis and cerebral abscess may observed in advanced cases
- F. General symptom: fever, anorexia and Malaysia (Table 1).

Differential diagnosis [1-7] (Table 2)**Nasal physical exam**

Nasal endoscopic examination is normal in most cases but may revealed mucopurulent nasal secretion, hemorrhagic crust, clear nasal secretion in CSF leak, tumor extension to nose, edema in sphenothmoid recess.

Table 1: Showing the Symptoms of Isolated Sphenoid in Multiple Studies.

	Asymptomatic	Headache	Nasal symptom	Eye symptom	Neurologic symptoms	General symptom
Friedman, et al. [1]		(72%)	Rhinorrhea (46%), and nasal congestion (26%)		14%	
Marcolini, et al. [2]		(71.70%)	Nasal obstruction (32.6%), cerebrospinal fluid rhinorrhea (15.2%), and mucopurulent rhinorrhea in 6 patients (13.0%). Also, epistaxis (4.3%)	epiphora (4.3%), 5 2 with, 1 with diplopia (2.1%); another		fever (10.9%), patient's level of consciousness was altered and he required hospitalization (2.1%).
Kim, et al. [3]	5,2	65.80%	Nasal obstruction 22.4, Postnasal drip 21.0, Rhinorrhea 9,2	Decreased visual acuity 11.8 Visual field defect 3.9	Facial numbnes 3.9	15.8
Martin, et al. [4]		[69%] purulent rhinorrhea (3 [10%]), and Two	Unilateral nasal obstruction [24%].	decreased visual acuity or diplopia (6 [21%]),	facial pain (5 [17%]),	patients presented with symptoms consistent with meningitis, 3 presented with cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) rhinorrhea, and 2 presented with endocrine abnormalities
Ruoppi, et al. [5]		82%	Rhinitis 38%	28%	Cranial nerve palsy 21%	Dizziness 26% Fever 18%

Table 2: Showing the D/D of isolated Sphenoid Sinus Lesion in multiple studies.

	Inflammatory					Tumor		Other		
	Acute	Chronic	Fungal	Mucocele	Sphenochonal Polype	Malignant	Benign	CSF Leak	Fibrous Dysplasia	Other
Friedman, et al. [1]	4	34	22	12		4	10	8	4	
Marcolini, et al. [2]		26,1	6,1	47,8	6,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	2,1	
Kim, et al. [3]		47,4	26,1	17,5		11	8		13,1	
Martin, et al. [4]		38	3	17		24		3		
Ruoppi, et al. [5]	67	33								
Cakmak, et al. [6]	53/182		15/182	44/182						
Lawson, et al. [7]	39/123		28/132	6/132	7/123	15/132 10/132 Adjucent 3/132 Metastasis	10/132	2/132	4/132	Foreign Body 5/132, Aneyrsym 2/132 Clivial Cyst 1/132

Radiologic assessment

CT or MRI is essential to find diagnosis of ISSDs. MRI should be done in cases of the bone erosion of the sphenoid sinus wall on CT, intracranial or cranial nerve involvement, and suspected spread beyond the sphenoid sinus. Angiography may be useful to distinguish between carotid artery pseudo aneurysm and ISSDs in patients with a history of head trauma [3].

Discussion

Isolated sphenoiditis

Headache is the most common symptom of isolated sphenoiditis, ophthalmic symptoms such as diplopia due to cranial nerve III, IV or VI paresis and blurred vision may appear, symptoms of rhino sinusitis may also be observed. The disease may spread outside the sphenoid sinus causing orbital or intracranial complications.

Nasal endoscopic examination is a good tool for diagnosis but it is normal in 60%, and CT scan showed air-liquid level, thickness of mucosa and thickness of bone wall of sphenoid sinus. The initial management is conservative with antibiotics and surgery for unresponsive cases. The endoscopic transnasal approach is widely used either transethmoid or direct above choanae [8] (Table 2).

Sphenoid mucocele

The mucocele is an expansive cystic lesion due to the accumulation of mucus secretions in the sinus when its opening is closed, it could be primary or secondary to trauma or surgery, it is rare in the sphenoid sinus and may compress the adjacent structures such as the orbit, cranium and nose.

The clinical symptoms of sphenoid mucocele are variable with headache being the most common symptom, blurred vision, ophthalmoplegia, anosmia and nasal obstruction may occur. Severe complications such as meningitis, cerebellar abscess and bilateral amaurosis may occur in advanced disease.

Diagnosis is confirmed by CT scan that revealed an expansile bone destruction cyst lesion with only marginal enhancement. Treatment with surgery to drain and excise or marsupialization of the cyst's wall [9].

Fungal sinusitis

Headache is the most common symptom, it may be accompanied by postnasal drip and facial pain, ophthalmologic complications like diplopia and vision loss may be seen. On CT scan the lack of air fluid level and the presence of calcification with a void signal on T2W raise doubt to fungal sinusitis. Surgery to remove fungal debris is the optimal treatment [10].

Sphenoidal polyp

It is a rare solitary mass disorder, originates from the sphenoid sinus and spreads to the choana via the sphenoid ostium causing nasal obstruction, it should be differentiated from meningoencephalocele, nasopharyngeal, inverted papillomas and nasal tumors. Surgery is the optimal treatment [11].

Cerebrospinal fluid leak

History of recurrent meningitis with PMH of nasal surgery or

head trauma raise the suspicion, On CT scan a bone dehiscence with an air fluid level may appear, on MRI a mass with signal like CSF appears on the sphenoid sinus, the presence of postnasal drip and beta transfer in studies from postnasal drip confirm the diagnosis. Surgery is the optimal treatment [2].

Inverted papilloma

Isolated inverted papilloma of the sphenoid sinus is rare. It is a rare benign tumor with a high rate of recurrence. The diagnosis is achieved by CT scan. The most of patients with inverted papilloma present with nasal complaints such as unilateral nasal obstruction, rhinorrhea, epistaxis. However, the clinical presentation of inverted papillomas confined to the sphenoid sinus is often nonspecific and insidious, with headache being the most common presentation [12].

Tumor

Tumor of the sphenoid sinus is rare, SCC is the most common cancer of the sphenoid sinus, CTS can show an expansile mass destroying bone with enhancement, MRI showed low signal on T1 and high signal on T2 with gadolinium enhancement. Treatment with complete resection with surgery is difficult and postoperative radiotherapy is needed [2].

Fibrous dysplasia

Is a rare bone disease that affects mostly the facial bone, it is rare in the sphenoid sinus and affects female children mostly, diagnosis is confirmed by CT scan that showed a ground glass picture. Treatment with surgery for symptomatic cases [6].

Cases solution

1- CSF Leak, 2- chronic sphenoiditis, 3- Mucocele, 4- sphenoid sinus tumor, 5- fungal sphenoiditis, 6- Fibrous Dysplasia, 7- Sphenoidal Polyp, 8- Acute Sphenoiditis, 9- carotid artery pseudoaneurysm, 10- Inverted papilloma, 11- Spontaneous Sphenoid CSF Leak.

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