Case Report

Nest of Evil

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Abstract
An 83-year-old patient was referred to the neuro-ophthalmology service with symptoms of headaches and vision loss. She had been diagnosed with stable size meningioma one year prior to presentation. She had a history of breast cancer treated by lumpectomy and radiation 20 years ago. MRI of the orbit showed encasement of the optic nerve on the right orbital apex. Craniotomy was performed and the specimen was diagnosed as meningioma. After resection, the tumor grew rapidly. When it was resected for the second time, the diagnosis was metastatic breast adenocarcinoma.

Keywords: Tumor to tumor metastasis; Meningioma; Breast cancer; Visual loss; Third nerve palsy; Sellar tumor

Case Report
An 83-year-old Caucasian female was referred to the neuro-ophthalmology clinic with concern of GCA. The patient had a meningioma that had remained stable in size on brain MRI over the past year, therefore the new onset of symptoms of headaches and vision loss in an 83-year-old were assumed to be related to GCA. Temporal artery biopsy was done and her headaches improved slightly with steroids. Since the clinical and laboratory criteria were not completely consistent with GCA, MRI of the orbit was requested which showed encasement of the optic nerve by meningioma on the right orbital apex. Craniotomy was performed. The specimen diagnosed as meningioma. She came back to the clinic three months later with complete ptosis, vision loss on the left eye, inability in adduction, elevation and depression, dilated pupil on
the left eye, VA 20/250 OD, LP OS. RAPD OS. Both optic nerves seemed swollen. MRI brain and orbit was done and reported recurrence of tumor (Figure 1).

**Figure 1:** MRI shows recurrence of tumor

![MRI Image](image)

The tumor was re-excised and the diagnosis was metastatic breast adenocarcinoma. The resection specimen shows fibrous tissue and infiltration of tuberculum sellar region by a poorly differentiated carcinoma. On hematoxylin & eosin stained slides, the neoplastic cells are arranged as poorly formed glands, cribriform glands and nests of cells with a desmoplastic stromal response (Figure 2). The neoplastic cells are characterized by medium to large-sized nuclei with prominent nucleoli and moderate eosinophilic cytoplasm (Figure 3). There is moderate to severe nuclear pleomorphism. Poorly formed lumens may be seen in some areas. Larger cribriform glands show necrosis. The tumor cells are positive for pankeratin (AE1/AE3), CK7 and GATA3 immunohistochemical stains (Figure 4). Tumor cells are negative for CK20, CDX2, Pax8 and TTF1 immunohistochemical stains. The Ki-67 immunohistochemical stain shows a high proliferative index at 40%. Tumor cells are negative for ER and PR by immunohistochemistry; Her2 testing is equivocal by immunohistochemistry (2+ staining) and negative by Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization (FISH) with a Her-2 signal copy number of 4.2 signals/nucleus and a Her2:CEN 17 ratio of 1.9. Given immunohistochemical positivity for GATA3, this is most consistent with metastasis from a breast primary.
Figure 2: Bone (black arrow) invaded by poorly formed neoplastic glands (blue arrows) with a desmoplastic stromal response. H&E stain, 40x magnifications.

Figure 3: Poorly formed glands are seen, aiding in the diagnosis of adenocarcinoma. H&E stain, 200x magnification

Figure 4: GATA immunohistochemical stain shows nuclear positivity in tumor cells, 100x magnification
The patient had breast cancer treated by lumpectomy and radiation 20 years ago. Oncology work up did not reveal any tumor in the breast. The patient deferred the proposed chemotherapy and radiation. She passed away 3 months later in a rehabilitation facility.

Established Facts and Novel Insights
Tumor to tumor metastasis from breast cancer to meningioma has been described in the literature before. In our case, the patient has a remote history of breast cancer treated with lumpectomy and radiation 20 years ago. Poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma was found only in the bed of prior meningioma resection with no evidence of tumor elsewhere.

Discussion
Tumor-to-tumor metastasis is an uncommon phenomenon. Imaging, selecting best tissue for biopsy and pathology information are important for final diagnosis and appropriate patient management [1]. Meningioma is known as the most common intracranial tumor to host metastases based on having low metabolic activity, high vascularity and being slow growing. The most commonly reported tumor to tumor intracranial metastases are from primary breast and lung neoplasms although, there are few reported cases of metastasis from renal, prostate, hematopoietic, gastrointestinal primaries [2,3,4]. Our case showed that a stable benign meningioma may change behavior due to metastasis from distant tumor. Remote treated cancer, may still have distant seeding, which may grow years later despite of the absence of the original tumor.

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References