Case report: Cystic meningioma

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Identification / Chief complaint

A 57 years old female presented at the neurosurgical outpatient clinics
Noted left hemiparesis and numbness of left upper extremity
Recurrent episodes of headaches during the past 2 months, occurring mainly in the morning

Physical examination

Alert, full of consciousness patient, orientated in time and place Left spastic hemiparesis Left Babinski sign Impaired light touch and pin prick sensation in left upper and lower extremity accompanied with dysesthesia A head MRI scan was ordered...

MRI scan



Cystic lesion 7.5 X 5.5 X 4.6 cm with an enhanced nodule part 2.4cm x 9mm with diaphragms

Imaging DDx

A large cystic space occupying lesion located at the right parietal lobe with diaphragmatic formations and a nodule at the circumference, attached to the dura

- Cystic astrocytoma
- Atypic Hemangioblastoma
- Malignant glioma with cystic or necrotic change
- Parasitosis
- Cystic meningioma (type II)

Treatment plan



- Stereotactically aided small size right parietal craniotomy
- Exclusion of capsular formation of the cyst
- Microsurgical en block excision of the nodule, on a arachnoid plane
- Aspiration of the cystic content cytology

Day 1- postoperative CT



Day 15- postoperative CT



DISCUSSION - Epidemiology

Cystic meningiomas are relatively rare (1,7-11,7% of all intracranial meningiomas)
129 adult cases reported 1994 till April 2007
Most common is the meningothelial subtype

FORTUNA A, FERRANTE L, ACQUI M, GUGLIELMI G, MASTRONARDI L. Cystic meningiomas. Acta neurochirurgica 1988;90:23-30. PARISI G, TROPEA R, GIUFFRIDA S, LOMBARDO M, GIUFFRE F. Cystic meningiomas. Report of seven cases. J Neurosurg 1986;64:35-8 SRIDHAR K, RAVI R, RAMAMURTHI B, VASUDEVAN M. Cystic meningiomas. Surgical neurology 1995;43:235-9. WEBER J, GASSEL A, HOCH A, KILISEK L, SPRING A. Intraoperative management of cystic meningiomas. Neurosurgical review 2003;26:62-6 ZEE C, CHEN T, HINTON D, TAN M, SEGALL H, APUZZO M. Magnetic resonance imaging of cystic meningiomas and its surgical implications. Neurosurgery 1995;36:482-8

DISCUSSION - Categorization

Nauta types I-III

- Type I: central intratumoral cyst
- Type II: peripheral intratumoral cyst
- Type III: peritumoral cyst with walls consisting of both adjacent parenchyma and tumor and presents with signs of glial reaction
- Present case is of type II

NAUTA H, TUCKER W, HORSEY W, BILBAO J, GONSALVES C. Xanthochromic cysts associated with meningioma. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatr 1979;42:529-35

DISCUSSION - Theories

Secretory or degenerative changes

 May apply to intratumoral cysts (type I)

 Adjacent demyelination due to edema or perfusion deficits

 May apply to peritumoral cysts (types II and III)

 Accumulation of many microcysts
 CSF entrapment

NAUTA H, TUCKER W, HORSEY W, BILBAO J, GONSALVES C. Xanthochromic cysts associated with meningioma. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatr 1979;42:529-35 PARISI G, TROPEA R, GIUFFRIDA S, LOMBARDO M, GIUFFRI F. Cystic meningiomas PINNA G, BELTRAMELLO A, BUFFATTI P, et al. Cystic meningiomas--an update. Surgical neurology 1986;26:441-52 MATSUKAWA T, NAGANUMA H, KANEKO M, et al. [Vacuolated meningioma with cyst formation. Case report]. Neurol Med Chir (Tokyo) 1988;28:1209-13