



Sphenchoanal polyp a case report

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ABSTRACT

Single nasal polypi presenting at the choana are a common entity in ENT practice. Since they usually arise from the Antrum of Highmore (Maxillary sinus) and grow towards choana they are known as antrochoanal polyp. Choanal polyp arising from the sphenoid sinus and presenting at the choana are rare. These are known as sphenchoanal polyp, It is imperative that we differentiate between the two polyps for two reasons – 1, to give a complete disease clearance 2, to prevent unnecessary surgery for other sinuses that are not involved. Radiological investigations include a C.T.Scan Paranasal Sinuses or a M.R.I. This will help in differentiating the sphenchoanal polyp from an antrochoanal polyp. Diagnostic nasal endoscopy will confirm the diagnosis. Once the diagnosis is made surgical removal must be done.

This case is presented here because of its rarity and also to stress the use of endoscopes in diagnosis and surgical management of nasal polyps.

Introduction:

The cause of Unilateral nasal obstruction with polyp presenting in choana has been accepted universally as antrochoanal polyp or Killians polyp. In today's world of endoscopes more and more newer diagnosis are coming to light because of regular and increasing use of endoscopes in the field of diagnosis and therapeutics, One such entity is sphenchoanal polyp. According to Dadas 4 to 6% of all nasal polyps are Antro-Choanal polyp. Sphenchoanal Polyp and other polyps are even more rare.

Case report:

We are reporting two cases of sphenochanal polyp .

Case 1: twenty year old male police constable presented to our OPD with history of nasal obstruction of three months duration to start with the obstruction was only on the right side, persistent progressive not relieved with medication. It slowly progressed such that the patient was suffering from bilateral nasal block by the time he presented to us for treatment .

Case 2: twenty seven year old male presented with similar history and findings.

This was associated in both patients with repeated clearing of throat hawking sensation, mouth breathing and snoring. No history of allergy and otological symptoms.

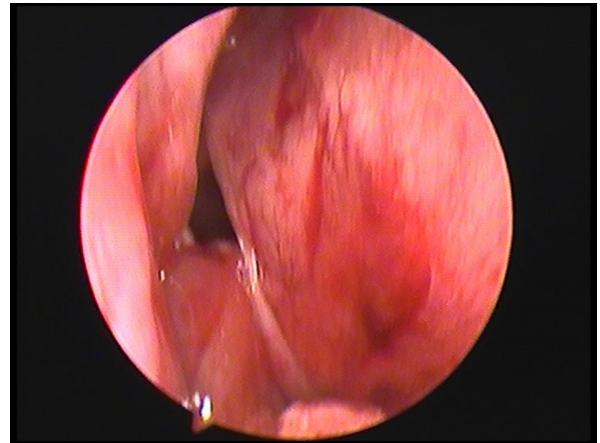
On examination:

External contour of nose was normal, anterior rhinoscopy revealed a solitary, pale, greyish- white glistening polypoidal lesion in the right nasal cavity. This was insensitive to touch and didn't bleed on touch and the probe could be passed all around it.

Post Nasal Examination showed the same polyp occupying both choanae.

Investigations

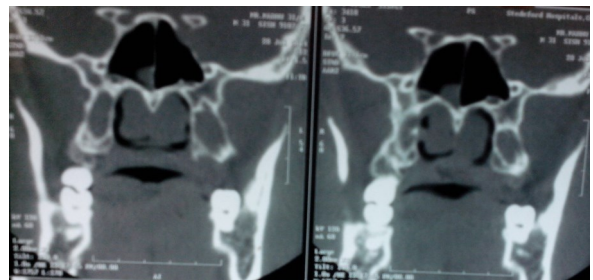
C.T. Paranasal Sinuses revealed no opacity in maxillary Sinuses. Right Sphenoid Sinus showed haziness,. Soft tissue density seen in Right Sphenoid Ethmoid Recess and nasal cavity, extending up to the choana. The soft tissue was seen in both choanae.



Endoscopic view of the nasal cavity

Diagnostic Nasal Endoscopy revealed that the polyp was arising from the floor of the Sphenoid Sinus. The ostium was widened. The Middle Meatus was normal.

Other Blood and, Urine, Investigations , X ray Chest and E.C.G. were within normal limits.



Coronal CT image showing sphenochanal polyp

Patients underwent Endoscopic polypectomy under general anaesthesia. Since the Sphenoid Sinus is related to important structures like the Carotids, Cavernous Sinus and the Optic Nerves great caution has to be exercised. Since in our patients the polyp was attached to the floor. we courageously avulsed the polyp and removed the polyp with its attachment. The three segments i.e. the sinus part, the sphenoid-ethmoidal recess part and the choanal part were removed en masse. The ostium was widened.



Picture showing resected specimen

Post operative period was uneventful.

DISCUSSION

Sphenoidchoanal polyps originate from the sphenoid sinus and present with nasal obstruction . they are rare compared to the antrochoanal polyp C.T. Paranasal Sinuses and diagnostic nasal endoscopy are the ideal ways to differentiate between the two polyp . Surgery is the main stay of treatment. Objective were to post a case of sphenoid choanal polyp and to discuss its diagnosis and treatment

Nasal Polypi form one of the common differential diagnoses for nasal obstruction .Other differential diagnosis may include meningoencephalocele , angiofibroma , inverted papilloma. Meningoencephalocele should be excluded in a very small child, Juvenile Angiofibroma in a young adolescent male with nasal block and Epistaxis and Inverted Papilloma in an middle aged individual. But the main differentiation has to be made between an antrochoanal polyp and a sphenoid-choanal polyp.

Polypi presenting at the choanae usually arise from the Maxillary Sinus and such polypi with unilateral nasal obstruction are known as Antro-Choanal polyp. Solitary Polypii are also known to arise from the Sphenoid Sinus . These are not so common . When such polypi present at the choanae they are called as Sphenoid-Choanal polyp. Polypi arising from the ethmoid sinuses are usually multiple and they are usually seen more anteriorly. Though such polypi may present at the choana ,such presentation is extremely rare.

A sphenoid-choanal polyp arises from the sphenoid sinus ,comes out through the sphenoid ostium goes through the sphenoid-ethmoidal recess to present into the nasal choana. Such a polyp is solitary ,usually unilateral and is not usually associated with allergy.

Histology is similar to other nasal polypi i.e.. Cystic centres surrounded with edematous respiratory epithelium. H.P.E. is mainly to differentiate sphenoid-choanal polyp from meningocele, angiofibroma, and inverted papilloma.

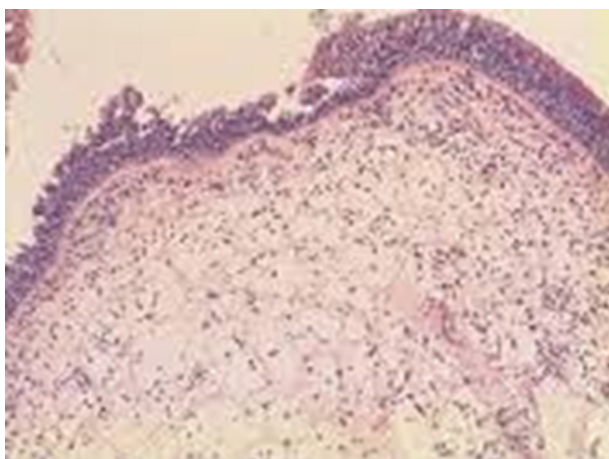


Figure showing histopathology of the lesion



CT paranasal sinuses coronal section showing the nasal component of the mass

C.T. Paranasal sinuses gives a clear cut diagnosis in most cases . Maxillary Sinus is free middle meatus is also free and there is no widening of the maxillary ostium., Sphenoid sinus ,the sphenoid-ethmoid recess show opacity and sphenoid ostium is widened., polyp is seen in the choana. Confirmation is achieved by doing a Diagnostic Nasal Endoscopy .This will show the site of origin of polyp, polyp exiting through the sphenoid ostium, its course and presentation at the choana,

Endoscopic was used for surgery. the advantage is that the polyp and its attachment can be clearly visualised. since the sphenoid sinus is in close proximity to important structures, precise surgery can be done and a complete disease clearance can be done with safety.

Conclusion:

The foremost cause for nasal obstruction with a choanal polyp is an Antro Choanal Polyp .It has to be differentiated from other conditions like Sino-nasal ethmoidal polypi, angio-fibroma and inverted papilloma to name a few. But the most important differential diagnosis is a sphenoid-choanal polyp. Both these polypi present with the same symptoms i.e. nasal block ,mouth-breathing, snoring and signs of sinusitis. usually there is no history of allergy. H.P.E is also shows the same picture because both arise from the respiratory epithelium. A-C Polyp is quite common.

On the other hand a Spheno-Choanal Polyp is rare. management of both polypi is surgery. CT- paranasal sinuses will give clear picture whether it is a sphenochoanal polyp or antrochoanal polyp which can be confirmed by doing diagnostic nasal endoscopy. Differentiation between the two is very important so as to prevent abnormalities in facial growth due to unnecessary radical surgery on the maxillary sinus especially in a growing individual .

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