NON EPITHELIAL TUMOURS OF THE NOSE AND PARANASAL SINUSES: PITFALLS IN DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT

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Abstract

A head and neck surgeon dealing with non epithelial tumours (NET) of the maxilla and mandible feels his steps with considerable caution. This study presents abnormal situations where some NET were misdiagnosed or difficult to diagnose. Such swellings present a diagnostic dilemma both clinically and histopathologically.

Fifteen patients are here described. Three cases were suffering from rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) of the mandible, five from Non Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL), three from chondrosarcoma of the mandible, two from neuroblastoma, the remaining two cases suffered from myxoma and malignant fibrous histiocytoma (MFH).

Introduction

NET swelling is a common diagnostic problem for the head and neck surgeon. Even the surgeon with a well planned protocol encounters patients that pose a dilemma, perhaps even causing the surgeon to question his own philosophy regarding treatment. Volumes of literature exist to guide the surgeon's decision from diagnosis and surgery to adjuvant therapy. (Bingham, 1986).

Fifteen patients with NET are here described. They represent cases of rhabdomyosarcoma, non Hodgkin's lymphoma, chondrosar-