Case 2008-8

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Diagnosis: Diffuse malignant Schwannian leptomeningeal sarcomatosis

Comment: From the Presenter: This NF1 patient had a diffuse malignant leptomeningeal infiltrate of Schwannian cells with deep extension into Virchow-Robin spaces. Cerebral, cerebellar and brain stem surfaces were involved, and vessels were particularly affected, such that the patient presented with ischemic and vasculopathic disease prior to death. Immunohistochemical stains showed that the tumor cells strongly expressed S-100 and vimentin. A few intratumoral axons stained for neurofilament, but these may have been entrapped. There were many negative immunostains including EMA, GFAP, SMA, Melan A, HMB45, CD31, CD34, CD68, AE1/AE3, CAM5.2 and wide-spectrum pankeratin. Ki-67 showed a tumor cell proliferation index of 10%. Further staining showed intact INI-1 and no p53 reactivity. Electron microscopy showed no intercellular junctions. Molecular studies revealed a somatic mutation in the tumor cells and showed loss of heterozygosity for chromosome 22q. This case illustrates an NF2-like lesion occurring in a patient with NF1.

In discussion from the audience, Drs. Mark Cohen and Arie Perry suggested that the vasculopathy might be radiation associated. There was a soft tissue mass of the upper spine, raising a question of possible metastatic MPNST, but the Presenter noted that autopsy was limited to brain.

References:


Note: Dr. Yeany received the fourth annual O.T. Bailey-Helena Riggs Award for best presentation by a trainee at the Diagnostic Slide Session, selected by vote of the Charter Members of the Diagnostic Slide Session and presented at the awards ceremony on April 7, 2008.