UNUSUAL PRESENTATION OF NASOPHARYNGEAL CARCINOMA

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Introduction:

Nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) is endemic in Southern China with variable incidence in different regions of the world.¹ Inaccessible area, & distinct histology make diagnosis of NPC difficult.² The diagnose can be difficult also due to unusual presentation leading to missed or delayed diagnosis.^{3, 4} This is undesirable as the treatment of early NPC carries an excellent prognosis.⁵

Objective:

To ascertain the extent of the problem of missed or delayed diagnosis due to unusual presentation.

Method:

This was a retrospective study of newly diagnosed patients with NPC in our department in Peshawar in the years 2014 - 2017. We have chosen nine most interesting cases.

Results:

Male to female ratio was 8:1. Five were young, ages were 10, 12, 13, 14 & 18 years, all males. The young age, headache in two cases, hearing impairment in one case & dysphagia in one case as presenting features led clinician not to consider NPC in the first place. The delay in diagnosis was two to seven months.

Conclusion:

The doctors having unusual presentation of NPC in their minds may help in early diagnosis & early treatment with excellent prognosis

References:

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