

Metastases of the Cranial Vault with Giant Subcutaneous Masses of Breast Cancer

Mbarki I*, Touimi SH, Elkacemi H, Kebdani T, Elmajjaoui S, Benjaafar N

Department of Radiotherapy, National Institute of Oncology, Rabat, Morocco

*Corresponding author:

Imane Mbarki,
Department of Radiation Oncology,
National Institute of Oncology,
Mohammed V University, Rabat,
Morocco,
E-mail: imanemb25@gmail.com

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Clinical Image

Bone is the second most common site metastasis in breast cancer after lungs, usually occurs in the advanced stages of the disease. Breast cancer metastases to the neurocranium may involve the bone, the dura, or the brain parenchyma. However, metastatic of cranial vault concomitant with subcutaneous mass lesions are exceptionally rare with only small numbers of reported literature. Magnetic resonance imaging is the diagnostic method of choice. The therapeutic option of choice is surgical resection if it's feasible. Radiation therapy palliative is indicated for patients with painful skull metastases or surgical recused.

We reporting a case of 56-year-old women who was operated on 2 years ago for right breast cancer and lost to follow-up. The patient presented 3 years later for diffuse pain. Clinical examination (Figure1) found a hard cranial swelling painful on palpation. A chest-abdominal-pelvic CT scan showed lytic lesions in the sternum, clavicle, and vertebrae of metastatic allure. The brain MRI showed multiple lesions of the cranial vault, the largest is left fronto-parietal with meningeal extension infiltrating the upper longitudinal sinus that remains permeable and skin extension measuring 90x60x55 mm, of secondary appearance (Figure 2,3). The patient received palliative chemotherapy with epirubicin-paclitaxel, with analgesic radiotherapy on the skull at a dose of 30 Gy in 3 Gy/fraction.



Figure1: Clinical examination showing the cranial swelling

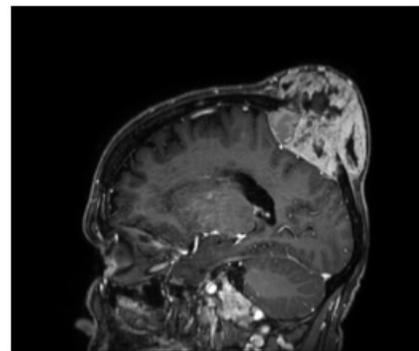


Figure2: Sagittal slice MRI image objective cranial vault lesion with subcutaneous mass.

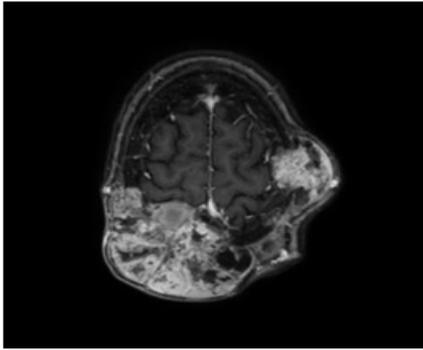


Figure 3: T1 axial slice MRI image showing multiple bone lesions with meningeal extension