

Case 1993-8

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The patient is a 4½ month old male who was in his usual state of health until approximately one week prior to hospital admission when, according to his mother, he became irritable. She attributed the irritability to recent immunizations. However, over the course of the week, he became lethargic and periods of alertness diminished so that he spent most of the time sleeping. Around that time his mother also noticed that his head seemed to be larger and a caretaker noticed that he used his left hand more than his right.

On admission, he weighed 7.2 kgs, 0.25 kgs less than a week earlier. His head circumference was 47 cm (50th percentile - 42 cm). (At two months of age his head circumference was 40.5 cm with the 50th percentile 39 cm.) His fontanelles were full. He was lethargic and would not smile. He moved his left arm and leg much more than his right. He would grasp with his left hand but not with his right and had more flexor tone in his right arm than his left. He would spontaneously kick with his left leg but not his right.

Head MR scan showed a large extraaxial mass centered adjacent to the left cavernous sinus. It was isointense with brain on T1 weighted images and produced low signal intensity on T2. It demonstrated homogenous enhancement after administration of gadolinium. Adjacent to the mass was a large extraaxial fluid collection.

At operation, a tumor extended from just beneath the left temporoparietal cortex to the cavernous sinus to which it was densely adherent. It appeared pink and well encapsulated. It was very hard and the sonicator would not break it up, so it was removed piecemeal.

Multiple fragments of white, firm tissue, the largest, 1.5 cm in greatest dimension were submitted.

Material submitted: 1 paraffin embedded, H&E stained section  
1 Kodachrome of a reticulin stained section  
1 Kodachrome of a section stained by immunoperoxidase

Point for discussion: Diagnosis