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CASE 2014 11

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Clinical History:

A 64-year-old female with past medical history of metastatic melanoma presented with progressively worsening headaches primarily in the left portion of her neck, extending into the suboccipital area and the area behind her left ear, developing over several months. An MRI of the brain performed to evaluate for metastatic disease showed a 7 x 3 mm homogeneously enhancing mass on the left side of the spinal cord at the C1-C2 area along the intradural course of the vertebral artery. A repeat MRI performed 5 weeks later showed that the mass was now 1 x 1 cm. An angiogram was negative for vascular malformation. A gross total resection of an intradural, extramedullary vascular-appearing tumor on the left side of the spinal cord at the level of the C1 root was performed.

Gross findings:

1 x 1 x 0.6 cm, well-circumscribed, shiny, firm mass with a fleshy, red, rubbery cut surface.

Material submitted:

Gross photograph and H & E (virtual) cross-section of the mass.

Points for discussion: 1. Diagnosis

2. Prognosis