

Case Report

An MR Imaging Study of Communicating Hydrocephalus After Gamma Knife Radiosurgery for Vestibular Schwannoma

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Abstract

Patients with vestibular schwannoma (VS) face a 3.7-23.7% risk developing hydrocephalus. Small-sized VS are associated with communicating or non-communicating hydrocephalus. Hydrocephalus in VS patients can persist or worsen post-tumor removal. Gamma knife radiosurgery is effective, especially in younger patients with functional hearing. Although the causal relationship between gamma knife radiosurgery and hydrocephalus isn't firmly established, this case reports a possible association between developing hydrocephalus and Vestibular schwannoma. Elevated CSF protein suggests communicating hydrocephalus due to tumor necrosis. The rarity of hydrocephalus post-gamma knife surgery likely relates to tumor variations rather than procedural nuances. Gamma Knife radiosurgery for vestibular schwannomas can lead to communicative hydrocephalus. MR imaging, including pre- and post-treatment scans, along with MR CSF cine-flow studies, highlights the link between gamma knife involvement and hydrocephalus development. Despite the rarity, this negative outcome underscores the need for careful consideration and investigation of risk factors associated with hydrocephalus post-radiosurgery. A middle aged man with vestibular schwannoma was investigated in this case. Patient was procedure through gamma knife radiosurgery for vestibular schwannoma. Patient was passed through MR scans before the radio surgical procedure and 9 months past surgical procedure. Nine months later, severe ventriculomegaly was observed, revealing central necrosis in the tumor. Lumbar puncture indicated abnormal CSF characteristics without evidence of infection. Despite a failed endoscopic third ventriculostomy, MR imaging cine-flow studies confirmed free CSF flow, emphasizing the complexity of managing hydrocephalus post-gamma knife radiosurgery for vestibular schwannomas. VS typically occurs in older individuals, this case's younger age and optimal tumor size for gamma knife treatment add complexity. Faster-growing and larger tumors are more prone to post-treatment necrosis and hydrocephalus, necessitating careful management. MR cine-flow aids in hydrocephalus differentiation.

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Keywords

Gamma Knife, Radiosurgery, Hydrocephalus, Schwannoma, MR Imaging

1. Introduction

Gamma knife radiosurgery (GKR) is a therapeutically choice procedure for schwannomas invading Vestibule in the bony labyrinth. hydrocephalus can occur after vestibular schwannoma therapy with a GKR, the cause-and-effect relationship is still unclear as tumors can produce hydrocephalus on their own. We report a peculiar case with MR imaging that shows communicative hydrocephalus following GKR for vestibular schwannoma (VS). The timeline of development of hydrocephalus after GKR indicates involvement of procedure under discussion. We investigated potential contributing consequences of hydrocephalus following radiation therapy. MR CSF cine-flow aided in assessing possibilities of hydrocephalus in this setting. Communicating Hydrocephalus is both rare, and cannot be positively attributed towards adopted radio surgical procedure for curing VS. Magnetic resonance imaging was utilized pre and post procedure, to rule out for possible association between radio surgical procedure and incurred Schwannoma. Furthermore, MR CSF cine-flow investigation were included to efficiently manage vestibular schwannoma. The conclusive evidence possibly indicated that GKR post tumor necrosis was causing communicating hydrocephalus. GKR probably accelerated or instigated communicating hydrocephalus after gamma knife radio surgical procedure.

2. Case Report

An extensive record of impaired hearing and left-sided tinnitus was found in a 30-year-old man with a previously healthy record. An MR imaging investigation revealed a 3-cm enhancing mass connected to the left vestibular nerve. The patient, who had a third nerve palsy, bilateral 2+ papilledema, and headaches, decided against surgical removal and underwent gamma knife radiosurgery (GKR) instead. Thirty-seven weeks later, severe ventriculomegaly was found, with enlarged ventricles and no evidence of intraventricular CSF flow blockage. A 3-cm vestibular schwannoma (VS) was observed, with decreased internal enhancement, indicating central necrosis, after puncturing lumbar region, the CSF exhibited very few red blood cells and a protein level of 132 mg/dL. Glucose levels were 61 mg/dL, and white blood cell counts were slightly higher at 17/mm³. Infection was not observed as well as Gram smear and culture were negative. An MR imaging cine-flow study verified that CSF was flowing freely and that there was no intraventricular obstruction. Endoscopic third ventriculostomy was performed, but no impact was found.

3. Discussion

Patients with vestibular schwannoma (VS), are at risk of developing hydrocephalus between 3.7-23.7 though in some smaller series studies it ranges up to 42% [1, 2]. In larger VS, obstructive hydrocephalus is common while communicating or non-communicating HCP are associated with small sized VS. [2]. Endoscopic third ventriculostomy is gold standard procedure for treating obstructive non-communicative hydrocephalus, which makes it inapplicable to our patient [4]. Patients with VS, removal of tumor cannot stop hydrocephalus from its progression or further worsening. gamma knife radiosurgery is an effective approach towards tumor controlling patients with younger ages less than 40 years, and with functional hearing [5-7]. Development or possible exacerbation of hydrocephalus after gamma knife radio surgical procedure is evident from this case report. Albeit causal relationship between incidence of hydrocephalus in association with procedure is not well established yet the timeline of incidence of hydrocephalus tallies with other cases reported earlier declaring same association [8-10]. in majority of VS associated hydrophiles developed within one and half year [11, 12]. Patient has elevated CSF protein in accordance with the proposition that communicating hydrocephalus associated with vestibular schwannoma caused by tumor necrosis [13]. Consequently, CSF resorption is obstructed at the level of arachnoid granulations. These complications are associated with acoustic schwannoma but radiosurgery can possibly aggravate patient's condition. The rare occurrence of hydrocephalus following a gamma knife surgery most likely indicates small variations in the tumor rather than variations in radio surgical technique. It is established that VS have varied growth rates [14, 15]. The case understudy is different in two aspects, age of patient and tumor size. The size of tumor is optimal for gamma knife radiosurgery but the age of patient is somehow lesser than expected age for occurrence of acoustic schwannoma. the incidence of VS is frequent in the age range 65-74 years [16]. the growth of tumors is associated with age while the difference in sex is not an important factor in the incidence of vestibular schwannoma [17]. Although female patients can be suffered more by associated symptoms including tinnitus, vertigo and dizziness [18, 19]. Tumors with faster growth rates and greater sizes are more prone to develop posttreatment tumor necrosis and hydrocephalus. Although VS are slow growing tumor but changes to faster growth after the surgical treatment. Because of the elevated intracranial pressure, this frequently makes surgery challenging and necessitates further care post tumor removal. MR sine aided in

differentiating between non-communicating and communicating hydrocephalus.

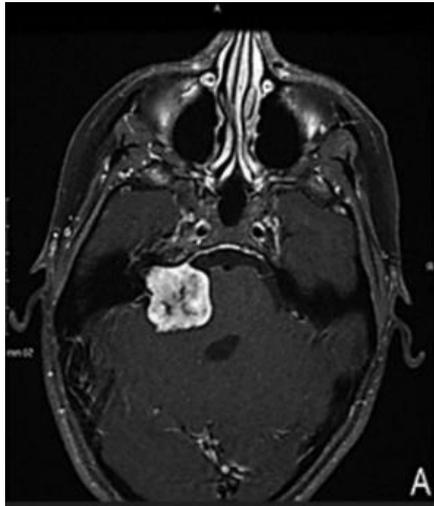


Figure 1. 14 days pre-procedure T1-weighted MR imaging.

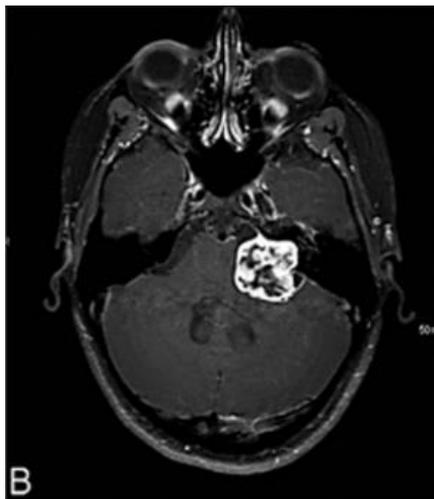


Figure 2. 36 weeks post procedure MR Image: Post treatment tumour exhibits central necrosis.

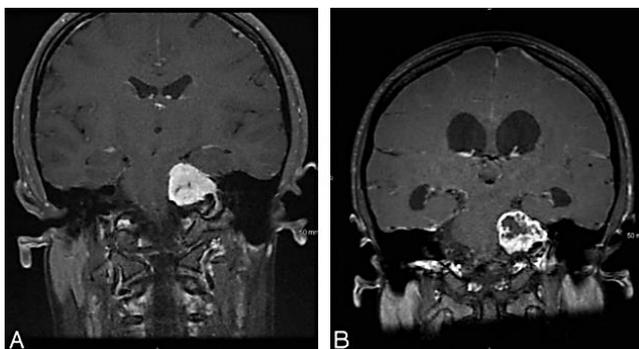


Figure 3. T1-weighted MR imaging after gadolinium (A) 14 days before and (B) 36 weeks post procedure image.

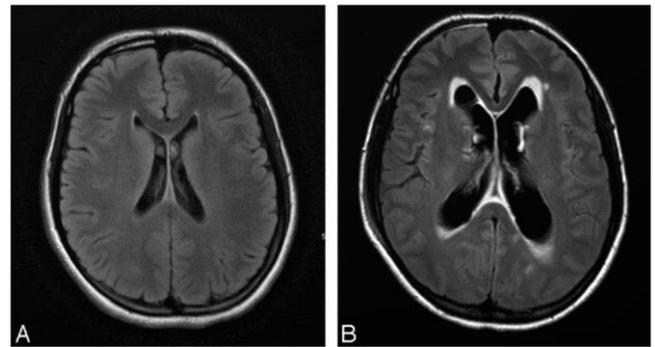


Figure 4. Axial fluid-attenuated inversion recovery MR images (A) 14 days before GKR (B) 36 Weeks post-GKR image. Ventriculomegaly is extended to third and fourth ventricle. Flow of CSF across ependymal layer of cells is shown in *Figure 4B*.

4. Conclusion

Our study was based on MR imaging of communicating hydrocephalus associated with vestibular schwannoma. Patient was treated with gamma knife radiosurgery for acoustic schwannoma but developed hydrocephalus possibly linked with treatment method. MR Sine flow provided guidance on the management of communicating hydrocephalus.

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Abbreviations

GKR: Gamma Knife Radiosurgery
 VS: Vestibular Schwannoma
 CSF: Cerebrospinal Fluid
 HCP: Hydrocephalus
 MR Image: Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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