

Mastoid Region Swelling, A Dermoid Cyst: Unusual Presentation



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Letter to Editor

Dermoid cysts of the head and neck are the rare presentation (7%), mainly encountered in the area of the lateral eyebrow, the orbit and the nose (>80%) [1]. But dermoid cyst a benign tumor in the subcutaneous tissue of the mastoid region is extremely rare presentation that need further literature attention as still, only single case had been reported in literature [2].

The authors present the case of a 30-year-old female presented with a swelling that had grown gradually under the skin of the left

mastoid for 6 months without any pain, hearing loss or vertigo. On examination, 3x2 cm painless, firm subcutaneous swelling with regular surface was present over left mastoid region. The swelling was soft, cystic and non-tender without any restricted mobility. Skin over the swelling was normal and free. There was no discharging sinus or pointing abscess without any bony indentation. Bilateral ear, external auditory canal and ear drum were normal. There were no facial or cervical deformities. Fine needle aspiration of the swelling was unsatisfactory.



Figure 1: Show swelling in the mastoid region in subcutaneous plane after raising the skin flap.



Figure 2: Show bunch of hairs after slivered the specimen.

Clinical diagnosis of a sebaceous cyst of retro auricular region was made and planned for surgical excision. Excision biopsy of the

swelling was performed under local anesthesia. An encapsulated cystic mass of size approximating 3x2 cm with granular surface

was observed occupying the left mastoid surface beneath skin flap (Figure 1). After slivered the specimen, a bunch of hairs were seen occupying the cavity of the cyst, revealed the diagnosis of dermoid cyst (Figure 2). Histopathological examination of the specimen confirmed the intra-operative finding. Patient is doing well on follow up of 16 months without any recurrence. Although this case was presented with asymptomatic retro-auricular swelling and was easy to manage surgically but it is unwise and unadvisable to do directly surgical intervention of such lump, as dermoid of mastoid, middle ear with or without intra-Dural extension has been reported in the literature [3,4]. If the patient present with such unusual swelling, unlikely differential should be kept in mind and further evaluation with imaging is to be done.

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