Extremely delayed falx metastasis from renal cell carcinoma

Figure 1 Brain MRI

Brain MRI with gadolinium reveals right extra-axial lesion of the middle third of the falx with compression of the contralateral ventricle and perilesional edema; the lesion shows intense and homogeneous contrast enhancement with the dural tail sign on its posterior end.

A 65-year-old man was admitted because of the progressive onset of left faciobrachiorucral paresis. Twenty years previously, he underwent a right nephrectomy for renal cell carcinoma; initial diagnosis was made by CT scan, because of the onset of hematuria; after nephrectomy, no adjuvant therapy was made. Brain MRI showed an extra-axial lesion of the falx, suspicious for meningioma (figure 1). Total removal of tumor and infiltrated falx was performed. Histopathology revealed meningeal metastasis of renal cell carcinoma (figure 2). A total body CT scan and a bone scintigraphy excluded any other neoplastic lesions.

We describe the first case of falx metastasis from renal cell carcinoma; the patient is in good condition after radiochemotherapy at 4-month follow-up. Dural metastases after renal cell carcinoma are very rare.¹ Latency of more than 10 years after nephrectomy is unusual.² In our case, MRI findings, such as homogeneous contrast enhancement and dural tail sign, were suggestive for meningioma. Perilesional edema can be observed in association with specific subtypes of meningioma, although it could raise the suspicion of a more malignant lesion. It has been observed that the main differential diagnosis of dural metastasis is meningioma because of the absence of definite radiologic criteria.¹

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Figure 2 Histopathology

(A) Hematoxylin-eosin (H-E) 20×; (B) H-E 40×; (C) H-E 200×; (D) H-E 400×. Histopathology shows prominent vascular structures surrounding alveolar and solid cluster of neoplastic cells. Nuclei present very irregular contours, with diameter approximately 20 μm and large nucleoli. Abundant clear cytoplasm is evident. Foci of necrosis are observed (inset asterisk). Diagnosis is meningeal metastasis of clear cell carcinoma of kidney.

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