Multiple radiation-induced neurofibromas

Figure 1 Coronal cervical spine MRI (A) and sagittal left side (B)

MRI showing neurofibromas from C2 to T1, predominantly on the irradiated side. No neurofibromas were observed in the remaining spine.

Figure 2 Tumor histopathology

Pathologic examination showing a spindle cell tumor with areas of collagen and clearer areas of myxoid type.

A 49-year-old woman had received radiotherapy at the axillar, clavicular, and left laterocervical regions for Hodgkin lymphoma. Fifteen years later, she reported progressive loss of strength and sensation in her left arm. The patient had no stigma of neurofibromatosis or any other genetic mutation.

Cervical MRI showed neurofibromas (figure 1). A cervical laminectomy was performed and multiple neurofibromas were resected. The pathologic examination confirmed the diagnosis of neurofibromas (figure 2).

Only 9 cases of radioinduced neurofibromas have been documented to date.^{1,2} Our patient has the largest number of nerves affected.² Although rare, radioinduced neurofibromas should be taken into consideration in the differential diagnosis of patients who have undergone radiotherapy and develop progressive neurologic deterioration.

Cristian de Quintana-Schmidt, MD, Pablo Clavel Laria, MD, Barcelona, Spain

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Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. Cristian de Quintana-Schmidt, Resident of the Department of Neurosurgery, Sant Pau Hospital (Barcelona), Sant Antoni Maria Claret 167, 08025 Barcelona, Spain; cqs_7@hotmail.com

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