Cerebral myiasis

Figure 1 Preoperative images

(A) Axial CT image demonstrates a bone lysis in the skull base. (B, C) Axial CT image reveals density changes in the right frontotemporal region, which is suggestive of pneumocephalus due to lysis of the wall of the paranasal sinuses and ischemic areas due to myiasis.

Figure 2 Operative findings

(A) Physical inspection noted the presence of larvae in the right orbit. (B) Image after surgical skin incision. (C) Image of the brain parenchyma after cleaning and removal of larvae.

An 85-year-old patient was admitted to the emergency room septic with fetid odor in the right orbit, where enucleation of the right eye had been performed 8 years prior. Physical inspection noted the presence of larvae within the right orbit. After a CT scan (figure 1), the patient underwent surgical treatment (figure 2). Intraoperative cultures revealed encephalitis caused by myiasis. The patient died due to complications caused by sepsis 2 weeks after the procedure.

Among the 11 cases with cerebral myiasis reported in the literature,¹ we found no history of infection by contiguity to the brain with a skull base bone lysis.

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