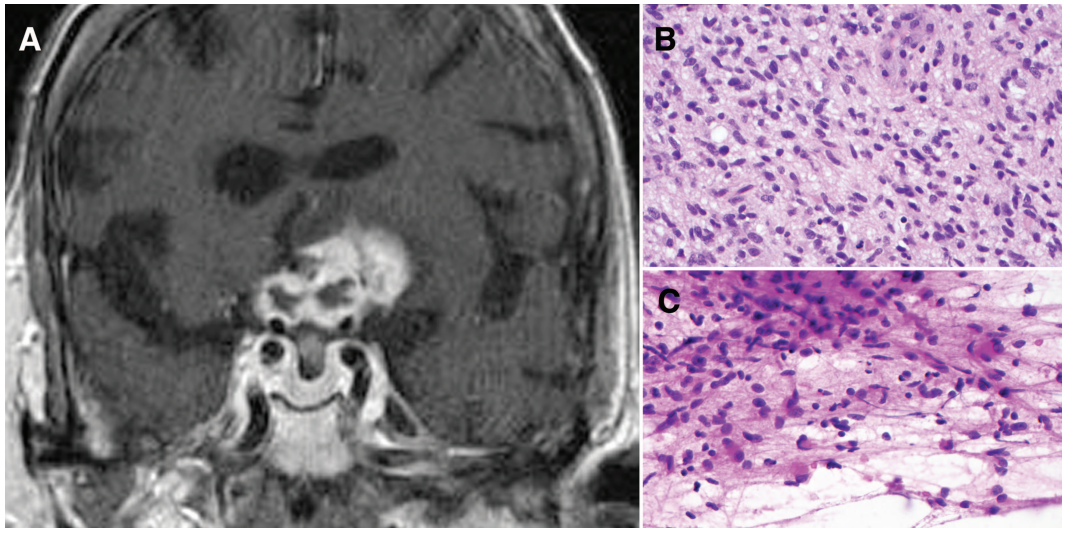
A case of endocrinologic crisis in a woman with subacute blindness



(A) Coronal T1 postgadolinium MRI showing heterogeneously enhancing mass centered within the suprasellar cistern involving the optic apparatus and hypothalamus extending superiorly to involve the inferior frontal lobes. (B, C) Biopsy specimen histologic section shows hypercellular fibrillary malignant neoplasm with moderate cytologic atypia and rare apoptotic bodies (hematoxylin-eosin stain, 400× original magnification).

A 79-year-old woman presented to our emergency department with subacute, sequential, severe optic neuropathies and encephalopathy. She had been treated for suspected giant cell arteritis at an outside facility several months earlier (elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate and minimal left optic nerve enhancement). On our evaluation she had panhypopituitarism and a large, gadolinium-enhancing optic apparatus mass extending through the hypothalamus and into the frontal lobes (figure, A). Biopsy diagnosed grade IV fibrillary astrocytoma (glioblastoma multiforme; figure, B and C). Optic nerve gliomas are typically low-grade and diagnosed in childhood, while rare adult cases are often high-grade glioblastoma as in the present case.[1,2]

Tamika M. Burrus, MD, Matthew T. Drake, MD, PhD, Schuyler O. Sanderson, MD, B. Mark Keegan, MD, FRCP(C)

From the Departments of Neurology (T.M.B., B.M.K.), Medicine (M.T.D.), and Laboratory Medicine and Pathology (S.O.S.), Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN.

Disclosure: Dr. Burrus reports no disclosures. Dr. Drake receives research support from the NIH (NCI 2R01 CA 107476-6 [coinvestigator] and NIA P01 AG 004875 [coinvestigator]. Dr. Sanderson reports no disclosures. Dr. Keegan serves as a Section Editor for *Neurology*® and as Chief Editor of *eMedicine* and has served as a consultant for Novartis.

Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. B. Mark Keegan, Department of Neurology, Mayo Clinic, 200 1st Street SW, Rochester, MN 55905; keegan.bmark@mayo.edu

Received February 11, 2010. Accepted in final form September 1, 2010.

1. Hoyt WF, Mesehel LG, Lessel S, Schatz NJ, Suckling RD. Malignant optic glioma of adulthood. Brain 1973;96:121–132.
2. Dinh TT, Wang YY, Rosenfeld JV, Cherny M. Glioblastoma of the optic chiasm. J Clin Neurosci 2007;14:502–505.