A 28-year-old woman presented with fever, double vision, and facial pain. Neurologic examination showed neck stiffness, pain in the distribution of the right trigeminal nerve, and right abducens palsy (figure 1). Tympanic membranes were normal. MRI revealed sphenoid sinusitis, basilar pachymeningitis, and clivus osteomyelitis (figure 2). CSF analysis showed pleocytosis, increased protein contents, decreased glucose levels, and positive cultures for *Staphylococcus aureus*. The triad of suppurative otitis media, pain in the distribution of the trigeminal nerve, and abducens palsy is called Gradenigo syndrome.1 While it most often affects children, it may occur in adults and may rarely present without otitis media.2 While bone compromise is usually confined to the petrous apex, it may extend to sphenoid sinuses, clivus, and basal meninges.

REFERENCE

Teaching NeuroImages: Gradenigo syndrome
Miguel E. Delgado and Oscar H. Del Brutto
Neurology 2012;79:e141
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