Large vagal nerve schwannoma presenting with hemorrhage and respiratory failure

A 30-year-old man was intubated after sudden severe headache, loss of consciousness, and apnea. CT showed acute hemorrhage in the posterior fossa, brainstem compression, and intraventricular extension with early obstructive hydrocephalus (figure 1A). MRI showed a large heterogeneously enhancing extra-axial tumor extending from the cerebellopontine angle to the foramen magnum (figure 1, B and C). Intraoperatively the tumor was purely intracranial, arising from the right vagus nerve. He remained apneic postoperatively. Pathology was consistent with schwannoma (figure 2).

Lower cranial nerve schwannomas constitute 3% of all intracranial schwannomas; purely intracranial...
vagal schwannomas are particularly infrequent. Intratumoral and subarachnoid hemorrhage rarely occur with schwannomas.²

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
Drs. Rizek, Lincoln, and Wolf: study design and concept, drafting and revising the manuscript. Drs. Entwistle and Kurdi: revision of selected figures and legends.

STUDY FUNDING
No targeted funding reported.

REFERENCES

DISCLOSURE
P. Rizek reports no disclosures. M. Lincoln is a member of the Resident & Fellow Section of Neurology®. A. Wolf, B. Entwistle, and M. Kurdi report no disclosures. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.
Teaching NeuroImages: Large vagal nerve schwannoma presenting with hemorrhage and respiratory failure
Neurology 2014;82:e89-e90
DOI 10.1212/WNL.0000000000000189

This information is current as of March 10, 2014