An Infant with Posterior Fossa Hemangioma with Aortic Stenosis: Case Report and Review of Literature

Senol Yigit Can, MD1*, Daglioglu Ergun, MD1, Aydogdu Basaran Ozge, MD2 and Belen Deni, MD1

1Department of Neurosurgery, Ankara Bilkent City Hospital, Ankara, Turkey
2Department of Pathology, Ankara Bilkent City Hospital, Ankara, Turkey

*Corresponding author: Senol Yigit Can, MD, Department of Neurosurgery, Ankara Bilkent City Hospital, Ankara, Turkey

Abstract

We presented a unique case of infantile type hemangioma corresponding with aortic stenosis. Therefore, we accepted this case as a PHACES syndrome. This case will be the 4th case of the literature. The most remarkable feature of PHACE syndrome is infantile hemangioma but abnormalities in the arteries which are not obvious on the clinical examination have considerable potential morbidity [3,4]. PHACE syndrome is an acronym of (Posterior fossa malformations, hemangioma, arterial anomalies, coarctation of aorta/cardiac defects, eye abnormalities). First described in 1978, by Pascual-Castroviejo [5]. In 1996, Frieden, et al. created acronym [6]. Subsequently, sternal malformations were added the acronym and became PHACES [7].

Case Report

A one-year-old infant as a close follow-up patient of our hospital’s pediatric cardiology department with an aortic stenosis planning a balloon-valvuloplasty. He was admitted pediatric emergency service with a 2-day onset of right hemiparesis without any traumatic injury. According to the patient’s perinatal and medical history, he was born after 39 weeks pregnancy with a birth weight of 3125g. There was no positive family history of hemangiomas. On examination, he was awake, alert, positive pupillary reflexes, no facial paresis, with a 4/5 right hemiparesis. Neither syncope nor seizure was happened. The ophthalmological evaluation showed that both eyes were equal in size and eye motility was normal. No any symptoms of acute hydrocephaly and has subfebril fever of 37.8 ºC, without neck stiffness.

Blood tests were evaluated, and no pathologic value was seen. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and an-
Our team was ready for surgery but on the operation table he had a fever of 38.5 °C. Anesthesia wanted to exclude COVID-19 infection and sent him back to ICU. Blood cultures and urine cultures were made and a nasopharyngeal swab culture for COVID-19 was sent to the public health laboratory of Turkish Health Ministry. Prophylactic antibiotics were started. Tests were revealed after 2 days and showed no infection and his fever was improved. 2 days later we operated patient. A suboccipital craniectomy was performed. The lesion appeared vascular and clearly separated from the normal glial tissue without involvement. Because of the patient’s size and the low circulating blood volume, minimizing blood loss was imperative. Blood products were on standby but neither of was used. Hemangioma was gross totally.

Figure 1: MR angiography showed a non-vascular lesion narrowing forth ventricle on the left part of pons.

Figure 2: Diffusion sequence of the lesion.

giography (MRA) was obtained which revealed a pontine mass along the dorsal aspect of the posterior fossa. The lesion is heterogeneously hyperintense on T1 and T2 weighted sequences (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The mass was well-circumscribed and heterogeneous, and evidence of previous hemorrhage within it. He was consulted to our department with preliminary diagnosis of pontine cavernoma and hemangioma. The differential diagnoses of an intracranial vascular lesion in this one-year-old infant included hemangioma, hemangio-blastoma, vascular malformation, and other neonatal tumor types, such as soft-tissue sarcoma [8].

He was required hospitalization with focal neurologic deficit and admitted to pediatric ICU service to complete preoperative studies. After 12 hours of admission, our team was ready for surgery but on the operation table he has fever of 38.5 °C. Anesthesia wanted to exclude COVID-19 infection and sent him back to ICU. Blood cultures and urine cultures were made and nasopharyngeal swab culture for COVID-19 was sent to the public health laboratory of Turkish Health Ministry. Prophylactic antibiotics were started. Tests were revealed after 2 days and showed no infection and his fever was improved. 2 days later we operated patient. A suboccipital craniectomy was performed. The lesion appeared vascular and clearly separated from the normal glial tissue without involvement. Because of the patient’s size and the low circulating blood volume, minimizing blood loss was imperative. Blood products were on standby but neither of was used. Hemangioma was gross totally.
Figure 3: Postoperative 24 hour MRI, no hemorrhage was seen on the MRI.

Figure 4: Postoperative Day 30 control MRI, lesion was totally removed. T1, TOF and T2 flair sequences of MRI images.
resected and no complication was made. After surgery to exclude intracranial hemorrhage, a diffusion MRI was obtained and revealed the lesion was totally resected. No hemorrhage was seen (Figure 3 and Figure 4). On his post-operative day 1, his hemiparesis was 4+/5 but had a facial paresis so we immediately started 2 mg/kg/h prednisolone and continued for 24 hours. In his post-operative day 2, his facial paralysis was recovered and we stopped prednisolone infusion. He was transferred to infantile service, near his parents. We checked his neurologic examination on our daily routines and his right paresis was totally improved on post-operative day 5 and he discharged with outpatient polyclinic control.

On his post-operative day 12 we took sutures and no cerebral spinal fluid collection was seen. We planned a control magnetic resonance angiography and obtained

in his post-operative day 30 (Figure 4). No residue lesion was revealed.

**Discussion**

One percent of infantile hemangiomas involve the central nervous system, and approximately half of these are intracranial [8]. Most intracranial infantile hemangiomas classically involve the extra-axial basal cisterns, subarachnoid and ventricular spaces, and cavernous sinus [9]. Our case was demonstrating classically findings of infantile hemangiomas (Figure 5), but confirmation of hemangioma was made by immunohistochemical staining. Pathologic specimen was positive staining with GLUT1 and SMA which are reliable markers for infantile hemangioma. GLUT1 (Figure 6 and Figure 7), a glucose transporter present in normal capillary endothelial

---

**Figure 5:** Pathology prepared slides showed congested vascular lesions which has thin walls with hematoxylin eosin dye.

**Figure 6:** Hematoxylin Eosin dying of the pontine mass. Specimen showed a vascular lesion within slight walls.
lesions of infantile hemangiomas. Besides, Propanol is a common treatment protocol of infantile hemangiomas whereas extra-cranial lesions, there is no evidence of using it for intracranial lesions. On the other hand, as a second option of medical therapy steroids were generally use. Mostly using in benign skin lesions with biopsy confirmed. Regression of lesions were reported [1,8]. But also no evidence was found in the literature of using steroids for intracranial lesions. Embolization can be an additional therapy to surgical resection. But as an infant patient small vessel can be a handicap to make angiography without complication [11]. 3 of Dural-based infantile hemangiomas were reported in the literature [11]. Our case can be count for the 4th case of literature which was including PHASES symptoms (Table 1) [12].

Table 1: Case reports of Dural-based infantile hemangiomas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors, Year</th>
<th>Age, Sex</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Diagnosis, Confirmation</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Complication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Willing, et al. [12]</td>
<td>17 Months, Male (Monozygotic twin)</td>
<td>Generalized and Focal seizures</td>
<td>Right temporal</td>
<td>Histopathology (No staining used)</td>
<td>Resection</td>
<td>Postoperative seizures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philbott, et al. [9]</td>
<td>12 months, Female (Monozygotic twin)</td>
<td>Enlarged head circumference</td>
<td>Right parietal</td>
<td>Immunohistochemistry (GLUT1)</td>
<td>Resection</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shakir, et al. [11]</td>
<td>15 days, Female (Dizygotic twin)</td>
<td>Ventricleomelagaly on Screening ultrasound</td>
<td>Midline posterior fossa</td>
<td>Immunohistochemistry (GLUT1)</td>
<td>Resection</td>
<td>Postoperative seizures, Sinus thrombosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belen, et al. 2020</td>
<td>24 months, Male (Aortic stenosis, PHASES)</td>
<td>Right hemiparesis</td>
<td>Midline posterior fossa</td>
<td>Immunohistochemistry (GLUT1)</td>
<td>Resection</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...cells constituting the blood-brain barrier, is a particularly useful marker of infantile hemangiomas because it differentiates those from other vascular tumors and malformations that have been shown to lack GLUT1 [10]. Several other associated abnormalities have been observed in infants with infantile hemangioma, including arterial anomalies, ipsilateral cerebellar hypoplasia, Dandy-Walker malformation, Moya Moya-like proliferation of the internal carotid artery terminus [11](Figure 6 and Figure 7).

Despite the benign nature of infantile hemangioma, in our case patient has focal neurologic deficits because of the mass effect. These lesions can cause considerable and permanent injury to the developing brain. Therefore, intervention is required such as these mass effect...
Conflict of Interest

We have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

References
