Orbital teratoma

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Teratomata are congenital tumours in which representatives of all three germinal layers are found in all degrees of complexity even up to a partially or completely developed foetus (Duke-Elder, 1952). Approximately twenty cases of true teratoma of the orbit have been reported (Burnier and Salles, 1945; Harbert, 1949; Pesme and Maupetit, 1951; Girard, Fountain, Moore, and Thomas, 1958). The following case is reported because of the rarity of this condition.

Case report

A baby girl aged 5 months (Fig. 1) had a left proptosis from birth. Her parents were cousins, and she was their first child. The baby's general condition was good, and there was no other abnormality in her body. The blood Wassermann reaction was negative. A postero-anterior skull x ray showed a dilated left orbit but no destruction of the orbital bones.

FIG. 1 *Left proptosis due to orbital teratoma, present since birth*

The right eye was normal with a normal fundus. The left eye showed a proptosis of 25 mm. (Hertel) downwards with limitation of upward ocular movements. A soft mass was palpated in the orbit between the eye and the orbital roof. Exploration of the orbit showed a non-encapsulated, soft, pinkish tumour measuring 2 × 2 cm., which was removed.

Histopathological examination of the tumour showed a teratoma composed of skin with hair follicles and sebaceous glands (Fig. 2), lymphoid tissue (Fig. 3), intestinal mucosa and tubular glands (Fig. 4), and cellular connective tissue with involuntary muscles surrounding the cystic spaces (Fig. 5).

FIG. 2 Orbital teratoma, showing skin with hair follicles and sebaceous glands. $\times 90$

FIG. 3 Orbital teratoma, showing stratified epithelium and lymphoid tissue. $\times 90$

FIG. 4 Orbital teratoma, showing intestinal mucosa with tubular glands. $\times 90$

FIG. 5 Orbital teratoma, showing cellular connective tissue with involuntary muscles surrounding cystic spaces.

$\times 120$

(5)

Summary

(1) In a series of 900 histopathologically proved orbital tumours this is the only teratoma. It was found in the left orbit of a baby girl, whose parents were cousins.

(2) Histopathological examination revealed skin, lymphoid tissue, intestinal mucosa, tubular glands, and involuntary muscles.

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