Optic Nerve Glioma in Adults

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Objective: To report two cases of optic nerve glioma presenting in adults without neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1).

Background: Anterior visual pathway gliomas are predominantly found in the pediatric population and are commonly associated with NF1. Adults with anterior visual pathway gliomas usually have chiasmal involvement, do not have NF1, have larger volume tumors and these tumors tend to be more aggressive.

Design/Methods: Small retrospective series.

Results: We report on two young adults (ages 29, 31) without NF1 who presented with gradual vision loss in one eye. Vision in the involved eye at presentation ranged from 20/40 to 20/60. Optic disk swelling was present in each case. There was mild proptosis (2-3mm) at presentation. Each patient had radiological evidence of a presumed optic nerve glioma. Both patients had been previously treated with oral steroids without any success. Visual loss progressed with time to 20/200 and HM. After fractionated external beam radiation therapy (5040 cGy) both showed improvement in vision to 20/40 and 2/200 respectively.

Conclusions: Adult onset optic nerve gliomas can be successfully treated with radiation therapy.

References:

Keywords: optic nerve, glioma, radiation therapy

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