

**RHABDOMYOSARCOMA OF ORBIT IN A YOUNG CHILD: A CASE REPORT**

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**ABSTRACT**

A four and a half year old child had rapidly progressive proptosis of the left eye with associated chemosis over a period of several weeks. Computed tomography demonstrated a solid extraconal mass in the inferior anterior left orbit. Histopathologic examination revealed the lesion to be an embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma. Consistent with the diagnosis, immunohistochemical assays demonstrated positive staining with myoglobin, desmin, and vimentin. The lesion grew rapidly. Subsequently, treatment chemotherapy was initiated.

**Key words:**

Chemotherapy and radiotherapy,  
rhabdomyosarcoma

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**INTRODUCTION**

Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) is the most common primary malignancy of the orbit in children, accounting for 4% of all malignant disease in children<sup>1,2</sup>. Horn and Enterline in mid 1900 first classified RMS histologically into 4 major categories: embryonal, alveolar, botryoid and pleomorphic<sup>2</sup>. Prognostically pleomorphic variety has best prognosis<sup>2</sup>. The average age of presentation is 4-7 years<sup>3</sup>. Most of the time the tumor is retrobulbar, but it may arise from any part of the orbit, even from the conjunctiva and anterior uveal tract<sup>4</sup>. The majority of tumors are localized to the orbit. In its highly malignant form, RMS grows rapidly and behaves aggressively, frequently invading adjacent bones and soft tissues. Extension of tumor outside the orbit is associated with worse prognosis particularly if there is skull base erosion. Though earlier orbital RMS was treated by exenteration, in 1979, Abraham *et al.* demonstrated irradiation alone or in combination with chemotherapy to be more effective than exenteration for both control and long term survival. Marked improvement in RMS survival over the past seen with the use of radiotherapy and chemotherapy<sup>5</sup>.

**Case report**

A patient of 4 and a half years reported to the department of oral & maxillofacial surgery with the chief complain of swelling around his left eye since 4 days. As the case was not related to any odontogenic infection, tumor or trauma, so the

case was referred to deptt. of ophthalmology. Where he was prescribed with some eye drops. But patient was not relieved with the eye drops and swelling gradually increased in size over a period of 15 days (fig.1).



**Figure 1** Clinical photograph before chemotherapy

Patient again visited to the department of ophthalmology where he was prescribed MRI & CT Scan.

CT findings revealed well defined heterogeneously enhancing soft tissue attenuation lesion with non enhancing hypodense areas of necrosis is seen in left orbit. Anteriorly the lesion is seen having ill defined interface with posterior wall of the eye ball however no intraocular extension is seen. The lesion is causing anteroinferiorly displacement of left eyeball resulting in to extraaxial proptosis. The lesion is displacing and encasing of optic nerve up to 360 degrees. The lesion is abutting posterior part of inferior rectus muscle and causing its heterogeneously enhancing thickening. Rest extraocular muscles and lacrimal gland are not visualized separately from

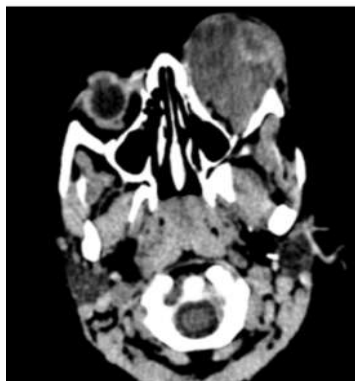
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the lesion involved. Lesion is seen abutting superior, medial and lateral walls of orbit however no osseous erosion is seen (fig.2&3)

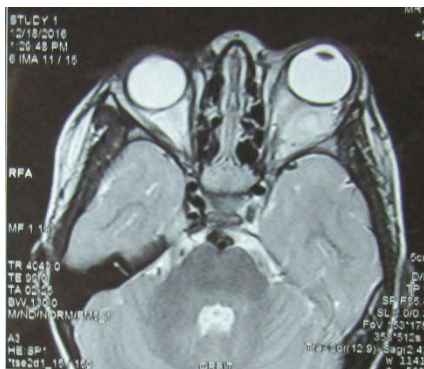


**Figure 2** CT Scan – coronal view before chemotherapy

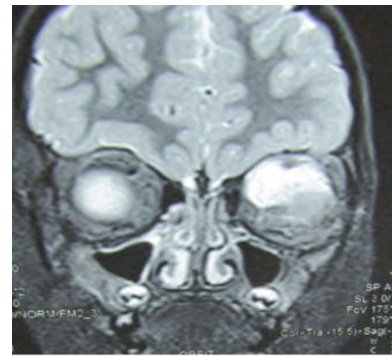


**Figure 3** CT Scan – axial view before chemotherapy

MRI revealed a moderate size lobulated well defined inhomogeneous intraconal mass seen in the superomedial aspect of the left orbit. Left orbit is displaced antero-inferiorly with the resultant proptosis of the eyeball. Mass is seen compressing and displacing the superior rectus – LPS complex muscle. Optic nerve is displaced inferomedially. Posteriorly lesion is seen extending up to the orbital apex. However, no obvious optic nerve canal or intracranial extension seen (fig.4,5&6).



**Figure 4** MRI Scan – coronal view before chemotherapy



**Figure 5** MRI Scan – axial view before chemotherapy

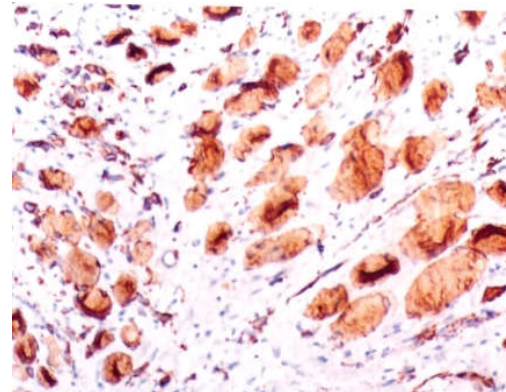


**Figure 6** MRI Scan – sagittal view before chemotherapy

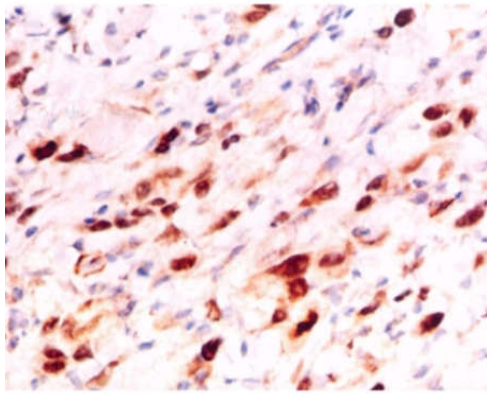
MRI and CT suspected the diagnosis of Rhabdomyosarcoma. Regional lymph nodes were not palpable and there was no distant metastasis observed on detailed work-up which include complete blood examination, liver function test, chest X-ray, ultrasonography of whole abdomen and bone marrow aspiration. Patient was then admitted there and the biopsy was done.

Section from biopsy tissue shows a malignant mesenchymal neoplasm disposed as diffuse sheets as well as loose fascicles at places along with dilated blood vessels in the substance of tumor. Individual tumor cells are pleomorphic, round to oval to spindle shaped have coarse granular chromatin and scant amount of cytoplasm. The histopathological diagnosis was confirmed by immuno-histochemical study.

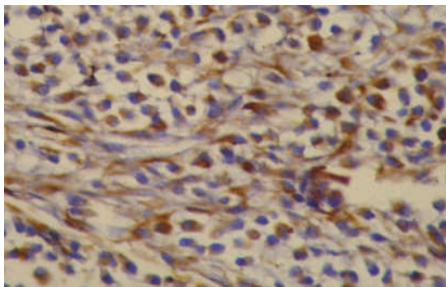
Immunohistochemistry from incisional biopsy confirmed the diagnosis of Embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma (Vimentin – positive in tumor cells, Desmin – positive in tumor cells, Myogenin – positive in tumor cells, S100 – Negative in tumor cells, MPO – Negative in tumor cells) (fig.7,8,9 respectively).



**Figure 7** Histopathologic image-Tumor cells showing positive staining with vimentin



**Figure 8** Histopathologic image- Tumor cells showing positive staining with desmin



**Figure 9** Histopathologic image -Tumor cells showing positive staining with myogenin

Patient was then referred to department of paediatric oncology where he was given 4 cycles of chemotherapy (VAC regimen) after 3 weeks duration . Patient is in follow up since 4 months and his swelling reduced in size up to normal but patient has no vision in his eyes after the course of chemotherapy (fig.10).



**Figure 10** Clinical photograph after chemotherapy

## DISCUSSION

The orbital rhabdomyosarcoma mostly presents as painless expansile lesion which may mimic various benign and malignant pathologies occurring in orbit. Metastasis in orbital rhabdomyosarcoma is mainly hematogenous and may involve distant bones and organs with rare regional lymph node metastasis<sup>3,5</sup>. Recurrence in rhabdomyosarcoma usually appears within three years of treatment<sup>6</sup> but in our case no recurrence was observed up till four months of follow up. Intergroup Rhabdomyosarcoma Study Group (IRSG) whose protocols are followed now a days for treatment of rhabdomyosarcoma.<sup>7</sup>

As per IRSG staging our case was instage III. Recently excision biopsy is preferred more than incisional biopsy as it confirms diagnosis as well as it removes the tumor too, which is significantly helpful for better outcome.<sup>7</sup> Exenteration is usually done for recurrence cases or the lesions which are resistant to chemotherapy and radiotherapy<sup>8</sup>.

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