Exophtalmos on Lacrymal Tumor

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Received: Nov 02, 2020
Accepted: Dec 14, 2020
Published Online: Dec 18, 2020
Journal: Journal of Clinical Images
Publisher: MedDocs Publishers LLC
Online edition: http://meddocsonline.org/
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Clinical image description

Exophthalmos is a protrusion of the eyeball in front of the orbit linked to an increase in the content of the orbit. Several causes can be at the origin of an exophthalmos. Tumor of the lacrimal glands is one of them. According to V Francerie and al, they represent 5% of the tumor causes of exophthalmos, far behind lymphomas which represent 18% [1]. The scanner has a role in etiological research.

Here we report a typical image of a tumor of the left lacrimal gland in a 46-year-old patient who presented with progressive, non-painful, non-axile proptosis. Biological tests, especially thyroid was normal.

On orbito-cerebral CT, we find a rounded intra-orbital mass, homogeneous with some peripheral microcalcifications (Figure 1), which is enhanced after injection of contrast product at the late stage (Figure 2). This mass is visualized at the level of the external canthus, at the expense of the lacrimal gland at the origin of a grade I left exophthalmos. There was no adjacent bone modification. Surgical excision with histological examination confirmed the benign lacrimal epithelial nature of the tumor.

Figure 1: Brain scan in axial section showing the rounded mass at the expense of the lacrimal gland with grade I exophthalmos of the left eyeball.

Figure 2: Homogeneous contrast enhancement of the left lacrimal mass.

References