IJCRT.ORG ISSN : 2320-2882

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Ocular Localization Of MALT B Lymphoma: A Case Report

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Introduction :

MALT lymphoma (Mucosa associated lymphoid tissue) is a mucosa-associated B lymphoid proliferation most commonly affecting the gastrointestinal tract (stomach), lungs, thyroid, breast and eye. Ocular involvement is rare, and most often involves the orbit, conjunctiva and lacrimal glands [1].

We report the case of a 43-year-old woman with an isolated, primitive ocular localization.

Case report:

This is a 43-year-old female patient with no previous pathological history who has presented with unilateral exophthalmos of the left eye for 4 months, with no other associated signs.

Ophthalmological examination revealed unilateral exophthalmos of the left eye; axial, painless and non-pulsatile (figure 1). Slit-lamp examination and fundus examination were without abnormalities.

These clinical findings were followed by a workup including laboratory tests (TSH; T3/T4; phosphocalcium) and radiological investigations, notably an orbital CT scan showing an appearance compatible with an expansive left orbital tissue process infiltrating the lacrimal gland and pushing back the eyeball, resulting in grade 3 exophthalmos, possibly related to an orbital inflammatory pseudotumor; an orbital lymphoma (figure 2).

A lacrimal gland biopsy with anatomopathological and immunohistochemical examination revealed a diagnosis of Malt B lymphoma of the lacrimal gland.

An extension work-up including a general examination with an oribocerebral IRM, pulmonary CT scan and cervical ultrasound confirmed an isolated ocular localization.

The patient benefited from localized radiation therapy combined with close monitoring throughout life. The evolution has been characterized by the retreat of tumefaction without response or secondary localization.

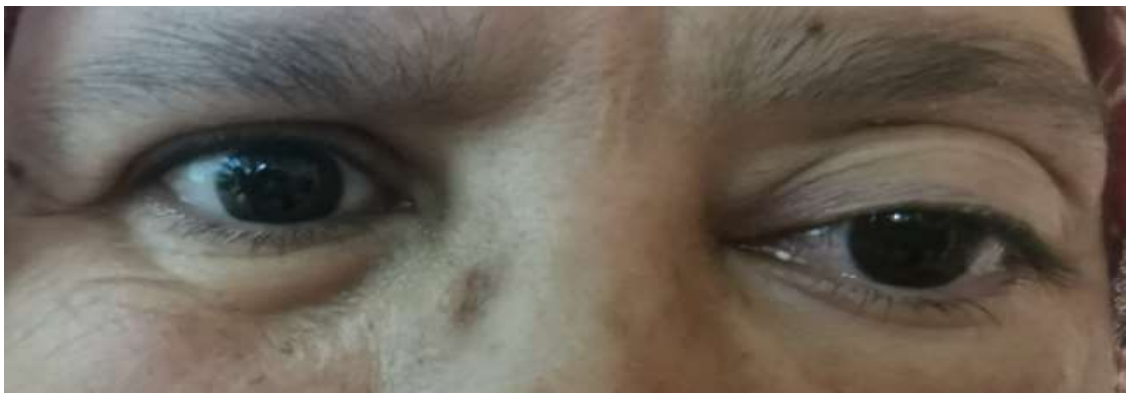

Figure 1: showing unilateral exophthalmos of the left eye

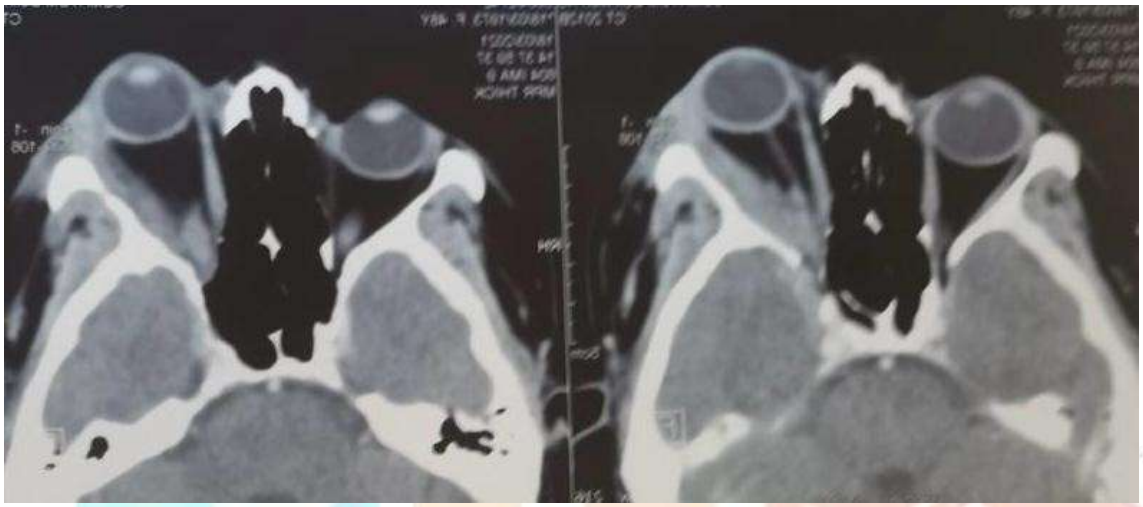

Figure 2: showing an expansive orbital tissue process infiltrating extra- and intracone fat centred on the superior-external orbital angle, with infiltration of the lacrimal gland; the distal 1/3 of the superior oblique muscle and the superior and inferior external rectus muscles

Discussion :

MALT B-cell lymphoma can demonstrate as an isolated ocular involvement, as was the situation with our patient. Although its orbital localization is more common in ocular involvement, its lacrimal localization should still be acknowledged[2]. Basic observation, surgery, or radiation therapy are typically necessary for this low-grade ocular cancer, if it is confined. Immunosuppressive medication, such as rituximab, or (poly)chemotherapy may be used in the less standardised management of multifocal types. [3]

Conclusion:

MALT lymphoma of the lacrimal gland is a rare disease that requires multidisciplinary coordination in the search for an ancillary site, and can have a good prognosis with appropriate management.

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