Introduction

Myxoma is a rare benign connective tissue neoplasm originating mostly from the heart (1). It can also arise from the head and neck region especially from the mandible and maxilla (2). Although very rarely encountered, myxomas can be seen in different parts of the temporal bone and other parts of the head and neck region (1-8). Myxoma of the temporal bone may present as a polypoid mass with local destructive properties (3, 4). Herein, our aim was to present a middle ear myxoma case which was operated with an initial diagnosis of chronic otitis media (COM) and to underline the fact that myxomas should be kept in mind in the differential diagnosis of polypoid ear masses.

Case Presentation

A 47-year-old male patient was referred to our clinic with complaints of recurrent otorrhea and hearing loss for more than 10 years in his right ear. Otomicroscopic examination revealed a large tympanic membrane perforation in the right ear and a polypoid mass arising from the middle ear cavity. In the pure tone audiology, the patient had a conductive hearing loss with an air-bone gap of 40 dB (PTA average 0.5-3 kHz). Temporal computed tomography (CT) scans revealed a diffuse aeration loss in the middle ear and mastoid cells and a soft tissue mass arising from the middle ear that extended to external ear canal (Figure 1).

Biopsy of the polypoid mass was reported as a mucosal myxoma rich in plasma cells. In the microscopic examination of the specimen, a polypoid mass surrounded by pseudostratified epithelium rich in plasma cells, Russel bodies and lymphocytes was observed. Thereafter, tympanomastoidectomy was planned with the diagnosis of COM with cholesteatoma. During the operation a whitish ovoid polypoid mass was observed, which was filling the middle ear cavity and easily dissected from middle ear mucosa. After removal of the mass, the appearance of the middle ear mucosa was healthy and no cholesteatoma was seen. Then we performed an epitympanotomy in order to expose the attic region but no signs of cholesteatoma and/or polypoid mass were seen. Malleus and stapes were intact, but the lenticular process of incus was eroded (Austin Kartush classification type A). The defect between the incus and stapes head was reconstructed by using glass ionomer bone cement, and a cartilage island tympanoplasty was performed.
Microscopic examination revealed submucosal S100 positive, EMA, CD34, synaptophysin, CD56, CD57, GFAP, P53 negative spindle or stellate cells observed in a myxoid matrix. The ki-67 proliferative activity was quite low (Figure 2-5). With these pathologic features, the final evaluation of the polypoid mass was reported as myxoma. The patient consulted with Cardiology, Endocrinology and Dermatology departments and was evaluated for the Carney complex. Echocardiography, thyroid and scrotal ultrasonography, abdomen CT, hypophysis magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) studies were completed and their results were all normal with the exception of a non-functional pituitary microadenoma, which was eight mm in diameter. Eventually it was concluded that the patient did not have Carney complex.

Our preoperative clinical diagnosis was COM with cholesteatoma due to the existence of a non-specific polypoid mass in the middle ear and a history of recurrent otorrhea. In preoperative CT scans of the patient, some soft tissue density and aeration loss was observed in mastoid cells, but as our initial diagnosis was chronic otitis media and we did not observe any signs of cholesteatoma in the middle ear cavi-
Myxomas are rare benign tumors arising mostly from the connective tissues of the heart. The head and neck region, mandible and maxilla (2, 3) are the most common sites of involvement. However, they may arise from different parts of the temporal bone such as the ear lobe, external auditory canal, or middle ear (1, 4, 7).

Myxomas of the temporal bone may have local destructive properties causing otorrhea, hearing loss, headache and facial palsy depending on the site of involvement (1, 3, 7). Surgery is considered as the first choice of treatment, because the myxomas are not radiosensitive (4, 8). Although we did not observe any local destructive properties in the CT scan, we noted an erosion in the lenticular process of incus intraoperatively and we reconstructed this defect using bone cement.

Temporal bone myxomas may be related to the Carney complex in some cases, characterized by various cardiac and cutaneous myxomas, melanotic schwannomas, Endocrine tumors and cutaneous pigmentary manifestations (1-3, 7). Carney complex is inherited autosomally dominantly and PRKAR1A gene mutations or deletions are seen in patients (3). Early detection of cardiac myxomas is mandatory because they may lead to fatal conditions such as cardiac embolisms. Our case was a healthy male patient without any history of possible cardiac involvement but it was consulted with Cardiology, Endocrinology and Dermatology departments, eventually ruling out of existence of a Carney complex.

Aural polyps are mostly encountered with chronic suppurative otitis media. In a study conducted on 42 patients with aural polyps, 88% of the cases were related to subotympanic otitis media, but in 12% of the cases cholesteatoma was the underlying pathology (9). However, it should be kept in mind that auricular polyps may be related to serious pathologies other than COM as seen in our case. Xenellis et al. (10) reported that, among the patients they operated on with an initial diagnosis of COM and with a polypoid mass in the external ear canal, cholesteatoma was the main pathology in the majority of the cases (86.7%). However, other lesions like glomus tumor, melanoma, mucosal adenoma, fibrous dysplasia, squamous cell carcinoma, adenoma of the endolymphatic sac, encephalocraniopharyngioma, and tuberculosis were reported in the remaining patients. Solitary middle ear myxoma is extremely rare with only a few cases described in the literature (2, 4, 5, 7). Due to its morphological characteristics (polypoid mass) and symptoms such as hearing loss, recurrent otorrhea, and facial palsy it could easily be misdiagnosed clinically as a case of COM.

**Conclusion**

Myxomas should be kept in mind in the differential diagnosis of patients with auricular polyps. Besides, all patients diagnosed with myxomas should also be evaluated for the possible association of the Carney complex.

**Informed Consent:** Written informed consent was obtained from patient who participated in this study.

**Conflict of Interest:** No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

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