Intracranial and Cavernous Sinus Extension of Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Neda Ahmadi, MD¹; Kenneth Newkirk, MD¹
¹Georgetown University Hospital

ABSTRACT

Background: Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is the second most common non-melanoma skin cancer. Features associated with aggressive behavior and poor prognosis include size greater than 2 cm, and moderate to poor differentiation.

Methods: We present our experience with SCC of the forehead and the scalp in male patients with cavernous sinus invasion and review the literature. A retrospective chart review was completed for all patients diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma of the scalp and forehead at Georgetown University Hospital from 2000 to 2012.

Results: Of the five patients, four were male. All of the patients in this series underwent MRI examination of the head and neck. Patient one is a 76 year old man with a history of scalp SCC that was excised at another hospital. He did not receive any further treatment. Seven months after the excision, he presented to Georgetown with a 10 cm ulcerative tumor involving the left frontal skull and skin. He is currently alive and disease free 20 months post-treatment.

Conclusions: Intracranial and cavernous sinus involvement were confirmed in all five patients. This series and review of the literature confirms that intracranial and cavernous sinus involvement are not uncommon in head and neck skin cancer with a 2.0% frequency.

REFERENCES


