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Long term oncologic surveillance in Maffucci syndrome: A case report

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ABSTRACT

Maffucci syndrome is a rare disorder of bone and soft tissue characterized by multiple enchondromas and hemangiomas. Patients with this disorder are at significantly increased risk for malignant transformation of the lesions; of particular note are chondrosarcomas, gliomas, ovarian tumors and other sarcomas. Additionally, patients are affected by skeletal malformations including limb length discrepancies and deformities of the hands, feet and upper and lower limbs. Because of the rarity of the condition, there is currently no consensus for long-term screening of these patients. We suggest a regimen including annual surveillance using advanced imaging and routine physical examination.

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1. Background

Maffucci syndrome is a rare disease characterized by enchondromatosis in the presence of vascular lesions.¹ Patients with Maffucci syndrome are at increased risk for skeletal deformity which can cause significant impairment in activities of daily living (ADLs).² Patients are also at risk for sarcomatous degeneration of the enchondromas.^{3,4} Additionally, there is an association with Maffucci syndrome and multiple soft tissue malignacies, including gliomas,⁵ cholangiocarcinomas,⁶ ovarian tumors,⁷ and other sarcomas.⁸

Here we present the case of a young girl recently diagnosed with Maffucci syndrome and suggest a method of ongoing surveillance for the early detection of malignant transformations of both bone and soft tissue.

2. Case presentation

Patient is a 5 year old female who presented with bothersome vascular lesions that are slowly enlarging on her trunk and recently noted in her mouth. She had been seen by Orthopedics for a deformity of her right index finger (Fig. 1).

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X-rays demonstrated multiple enchondromas in the hand, pelvis and lower extremities with a marked right sided predominance (Figs. 2–3).

Additionally, she was noted to have a leg length discrepancy of 3.4 cm. (Fig. 4).

Based on those findings, she was diagnosed with Ollier's disease. The vascular lesion on her right upper back has been causing her discomfort and becomes irritated when changing clothing. Parents have reported small bluish lesions on the bottom of the right foot and toes as well as subcutaneous nodules along the lateral aspects of the hands, feet and digits.

On physical examination, the patient had normal vital signs for her age (BP 111/67, P 90) and her height was 110.9 cm and weight 19 kg with a BMI of 15.45 kg/m2. A complete skin examination was performed and palpation of the skin and subcutaneous tissues of the head, face, neck, chest, abdomen, back and all four extremities. Of note was an 8mm violaceous-erythematous scaly papule localized to the right upper back (Fig. 5).

The was a similar 2 mm red papule on the mid chest. The right lower buccal muscosa demonstrated a plaque comprised of several violaceous papules. There were several firm subcutaneous papules along the lateral aspects of hands, feet and digits including the left hand, the webspace of the right toe and on the right and left foot which also had a faint violaceous hue (Fig. 6). Also noted was a shortening of the right second toe and the aforementioned deformity of the right index finger.

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Fig. 1. Right hand with deformity on index finger.



Fig. 2. Enchondromas in finger.



Fig. 3. Enchondromatosis in hemipelvis.

3. Treatment

Because of the multiple vascular lesions in the presence of enchrondromatosis, the patient was diagnosed with Maffucci syndrome. As she incidentally had already been scheduled for a dental procedure under anesthesia and because the vascular lesion on her back was bothersome, excision of the lesion on the back was performed by plastic surgery and the tissue was sent for pathology.

4. Histopathologic findings

Representative areas from the right lesions on the mid chest and

the right upper back were sampled, and $5-\mu m$ sections from the formalin-fixed tissue were used for routine light microscopic analysis, as well as immunohistological analysis. The antibodies used for immunohistology were CD31 and Glut-1.

The mid chest vascular lesion had dimensions of $0.4 \times 0.3 \times 0.2$ cm. Unfortunately there was insufficient tissue to be classified. The right back vascular lesion had dimensions of $0.6 \times 0.5 \times 0.5$ cm in size. Histologic analysis demonstrated appearance typical of a vascular malformation (Fig. 7). Immunohistochemical staining of showed diffuse positive staining for CD31 but negative for Glutlalso consistent with venous malformation.

DNA was extracted from the areas of viable disease involved tissue for sequence analysis. A single-nucleotide alteration, *IDH1* p.R132C, was identified at low variant allelic frequency. IDH1 encodes isocitrate dehydrogenase type 1 and somatic mutation of the gene has been associated with vascular and skeletal malformations. Mutations in *IDH1/IDH2* impair the substrate affinity of the enzyme and dominantly inhibit wildtype IDH1 activity through the formation of catalytically inactive heterodimers. ¹⁰

In recent studies, the IDH1 p.R132C somatic variant was frequently detected in affected tissue lesions from patients with Maffucci syndrome. In cartilage and vascular tumors, IDH mutations are associated with elevated levels of D-2 hydroxyglutarate (2HG) and global DNA hypermethylation. Additionally the p.R132C alteration is a mutational hotspot and has been well described in hematologic malignancies and central nervous system tumors, especially gliomas. 1

Over 80% of patients with Maffucci syndrome carry somatic mutations in *IDH1/IDH2*.9

5. Radiologic findings

After the initial radiographs (Figs. 2—4), the patient underwent a full body MRI, which confirmed the presence of multiple expansile T2 hyperintense lesions throughout the skeleton with a right-sided predominance. Additionally, the MRI showed a previously unknown expansile T2 hyperintense lesion in the right sphenoid body (Fig. 8) and multiple expansile T2 hypointense lesions within the spleen.

Follow-up ultrasound of the spleen showed four lesions ranging from 1.1 \times 1.1 \times 1.2 cm for the smallest and 2.3 \times 2.0 x 1.9 for the largest (Fig. 9). The lesions were hyperechoic and thought to be consistent with vascular malformations.

Dedicated contrast and non-contrast MRI of the brain showed no evidence of malignancies. There was an expansile heterogenous, predominantly T2 hyperintense enhancing lesion involving the body of the sphenoid and extending into the suprasellar region. The lesion is causing displacement of the caveronous internal carotid arteries, right greater than left with effacement of the right cavernous sinus. There is mild compression of the right internal carotid artery but flow void remains patent. The lesion also displacing the optic chiasm with mild compression (Fig. 10).

6. Follow-up

The laboratory evaluation including CBC, CMP, magnesium, phosphorus, creatinine, PT, APTT, IGF-1, growth hormone, TSH, Free T4, cortisol, prolactin, FSH, and LH were all within normal limits for age. Her leg length discrepancy has remained stable and she recently underwent a hemiepiphyodesis of the distal right femur to correct a worsening valgus deformity. She continues to have slow proliferation of the multiple subcutaneous hemangiomas but has not had any recurrence of large hemangiomas.

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