Sellar Lesions/Pathology



Damien Bresson, мр^а, Philippe Herman, мр^b, Marc Polivka, мр^c, Sébastien Froelich. мр^d,*

KEYWORDS

- Sellar lesions
 Pituitary tumors
 Pituitary adenomas
 Craniopharyngiomas
- Rathke's cleft cysts Meningiomas

KEY POINTS

- Sellar conditions, dominated by pituitary adenomas, is extremely rich.
- · Clinical symptoms are mainly visual and endocrine.
- Neuroimaging associated with careful clinical evaluation and adequate endocrinologic biochemical workup allows the diagnosis of most lesions preoperatively.
- Intrasellar aneurysm is rare but needs to be ruled out before any surgery to prevent dramatic bleeding.
- MRI and angio-computed tomography are needed for preoperative planning and intraoperative navigation.

INTRODUCTION

The sellar region is located in the central portion of the skull base, behind the posterior wall of the sphenoid sinus and between both cavernous sinuses. The pituitary gland formed by the adenohypophysis (anterior pituitary) and the neurohypophysis (posterior pituitary), lies in the sella turcica. Suprasellar growth is the main axis of extension of sellar tumors. The medial wall of the cavernous sinus that separates the pituitary fossa from the cavernous sinus is weak so that sellar tumors frequently infiltrate the cavernous sinus. Tumors of the pituitary gland and sellar region account for approximately 10% to 15% of all brain tumors and a large variety of neoplastic, inflammatory, vascular, or developmental lesions can be found in this region. Most tumors are pituitary adenomas (PAs) (9%) (Table 1).1

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E-mail address: sebastien.froelich@lrb.aphp.fr

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^a Neurosurgery Department, Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, 2 rue Ambroise Paré, Paris 75010, France; ^b ENT Department, Lariboisière Hospital, Université Paris VII - Diderot, 2 rue Ambroise Paré, Paris 75010, France; ^c Department of Pathology, Lariboisiere Hospital, 2 rue Ambroise Paré, Paris 75010, France; ^d Neurosurgery Department, Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, Université Paris VII - Diderot, 2 rue Ambroise Paré, Paris 75010, France

^{*} Corresponding author.

Abbreviations			
ACTH	Adrenocorticotropic hormone		
CSF	Cerebrospinal fluid		
CPs	Craniopharyngiomas		
СТ	Computed tomography		
DI	Diabetes insipidious		
GH	Growth hormone		
ICA	Internal carotid artery		
Ki-67 LI	Ki-67 labeling index		
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging		
PAs	Pituitary adenomas		
PRL	Prolactin		
RCCs	Rathke's Cleft Cysts		
TSH	Thyroid-stimulating hormone		
vHL	von Hipple-Lindau disease		
WHO	World Health Organization		
WI	Weighted Imaging		

Table 1 Classification of sellar and parasellar lesions				
Neoplastic	Pituitary	Benign Malignant Low-grade malignancy	Pituitary adenoma Pituitary carcinoma Pituicytoma	
	Nonpituitary tumors	Usually benign	Craniopharyngioma Meningioma Lipoma Schwannoma Gangliocytoma Hemangioblastoma	
		Low-grade malignancy	Chordoma Chondrosarcoma/chondroma Langherans' cell histiocytosis Solitary fibrous tumors Plasmacytoma	
		Malignant	Gliomas Germ cell tumor Primary Pituitary Lymphoma/ leukemia Pituitary metastasis	
Nonneoplastic	Developmental lesions		Other (melanoma) RCC Epidermoid/dermoid cysts Arachnoid cyst	
	Infectious, Inflammatory	Infectious	Pituitary abscess Pseudotumor tuberculosis Mycoses	
		Immune Granulomatous	Hypophysitis Sarcoidosis	
	Vascular lesions		Wegener Aneurysms Carotido cavernous fistula Cavernous sinus thrombosis	

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