



PARAGANGLIOMA OF THE ORGAN OF ZUCKERKANDL : REPORT OF A CASE

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Abstract

Tumors of the paraganglionic system will arise; these are termed paragangliomas, as they may be both physiologically and histopathologically similar to pheochromocytomas of the adrenal gland. Extra-adrenal paragangliomas make up approximately ten per cent of all paragangliomas, with those occurring in the organ of Zuckerkandl being the most common

We describe a case of paraganglioma in a 51-year-old woman with hypertension being present for 32 years. She suffered from abdominal mass, nausea, dizziness, emesis, headache, excessive sweating, palpitations, and back pain. An abdominal mass was diagnosed as a functional extra-abdominal paraganglioma by diagnostic imaging and biochemical tests. The mass was totally excised and her symptoms healed after the operation.

Symptoms of tumors of the organ of Zuckerkandl are secondary to synthesis and release of excess catecholamines. This is a rare case of functional paraganglioma arising from the organs of Zuckerkandl with successful surgical removal and amelioration of hypertension.

1. BACKGROUND

Paraganglia of the sympathoadrenal neuroendocrine system are distributed along the paravertebral and para-aortic axis from the base of the skull to the pelvic floor, and the largest compact collection of paraganglia in this system is the adrenal medulla. Tumors of the paraganglionic system will arise; these are termed paragangliomas, as they may be both physiologically and histopathologically similar to pheochromocytomas of the adrenal gland. Extra-adrenal paragangliomas make up approximately ten per cent of all paragangliomas, with those occurring in the organ of Zuckerkandl being the most common [1].

Keywords: Organ of Zuckerkandl, Paraganglioma