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Spinal Malignant Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumours in Nigerians

Tumeurs Malignes de la Gaine Nerveuse Périphérique de la Colonne Vertébrale Chez les Nigérians

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Spinal Malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumours (MPNSTs) are very rare aggressive tumours with poor prognosis. Little is known about these tumours in sub-Saharan Africa.

OBJECTIVES: This study aims to evaluate the clinical profile and outcome of management of these tumours in a resource limited country.

METHODS: We retrospectively analysed data from the records of patients who had surgery for spinal MPNSTs at our center between January 2004 and December 2018.

RESULTS: There were four patients in this study (M:F = 1:1). The ages ranged from 27-53 years with a mean of 43.25 ± 11.84 years. The tumour was located in the thoracic region in 2 of the patients (50%), the lumbar region in one (25%) and thoracolumbar in the 4th patient. Three patients (75%) presented with back pain while limb weakness, sensory deficit and sphincteric dysfunction were present in all patients at presentation. The duration of symptoms were 2 months in 2 patients (50%) and 3 months in the other 2. None of the patients had neurofibromatosis. Gross total tumour excision was achieved in 2 patients (50%) and subtotal resection in the other 2. The tumours were high grade in three patients (75%) and low grade in one. Two patients had adjuvant radiotherapy. Two of the patients were dead within 6 months of the diagnosis, another one within 18 months while one patient is still alive 3 years after.

CONCLUSIONS: MPNSTs are very rare in our practice. Most of the tumours were high grade tumours and ran an aggressive course. WAJM 2021; 38(1): 93–97.

Keywords: Spinal, Malignant, Nerve sheath, Peripheral, Tumours, Nigerians.

RÉSUMÉ

CONTEXTE: Les tumeurs spinales malignes de la gain nerveuse périphérique (MPNST) sont des tumeurs agressives très rares au prognostic sombre. On sait peu de choses sur ces tumeurs en Afrique subsaharienne.

OBJECTIFS: Cette étude vise à évaluer le profil clinique et les résultats de la gestion de ces tumeurs dans un pays aux ressources limitées.

MÉTHODES: Nous avons analysé rétrospectivement les données des dossiers de patients opérés pour des MPNST à la colonne vertébrale dans notre centre entre janvier 2004 et décembre 2018.

Résultats: Il y avait quatre patients dans cette étude (M:F = 1:1). Les âges allaient de 27 à 53 ans avec une moyenne de $43,25 \pm 11,84$ ans. La tumeur était localisée dans la région thoracique chez 2 des patients (50%), la région lombaire dans un (25%) et thoraco-lombaire chez le 4ème patient. Trois patients (75%) présentaient des douleurs au dos tandis que la faiblesse des membres, un déficit sensoriel et une dysfunction sphinctérique étaient présents chez tous les patients au moment de leur premières présentation à l'hôpital. La durée des symptômes était de 2 mois chez 2 patients (50%) et de 3 mois chez les 2 autres. Aucun des patients n'avait de neurofibromatose. Une excision totale brute de la tumeur a été obtenue chez 2 patients (50%) et une résection sous-totale chez les 2 autres. Les tumeurs étaient de grade élevé chez trois patients (75%) et de grade faible chez un. Deux patients avaient une radiothérapie adjuvante. Deux des patients étaient décédés moins de 6 mois de 6 mois après le diagnostic, un autre moins de 18 mois et un patient était encore en vie 3 ans plus tard.

Conclusion: Les MPNST sont très rares dans notre pratique. La plupart des tumeurs étaient des tumeurs de haut grade et couraient de manière aggressive. WAJM 2021; 38(1): 93–97.

Mots-clé: colonne vertébrale, maligne, gaine nerveuse, périphérique, tumeurs, Nigérien.

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Abbreviations: Fig., Figure; H&E, Haematoxylin and Eosin; MPNSTs, Malignant Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumours.