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Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma in Childhood: Evidence of a Malfunctioning Oncology Ecosystem: A Case Series from a Low Resource Setting

Carcinome Nasopharyngé chez l'Enfant : Preuve d'un Mauvais Fonctionnement de l'Écosystème Oncologique : Une Série de Cas dans un Contexte de Faibles Ressources

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ABSTRACT

Nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) refers to malignancy arising from the epithelium of the nasopharynx. It is a rare tumor globally but seen in higher prevalence in certain populations associated with the endemicity of Epstein-Barr Virus. It is usually seen in clinical settings in developing countries in late stages majorly due to poor health-seeking behavior, healthcare costs, and misdiagnosis arising from its vague and ambiguous symptoms. The outcome of NPC depends strongly on the stage at diagnosis and access to the right treatment which may prove challenging in low-resource settings where care is paid for out of pocket.

We report three cases of nasopharyngeal carcinoma, its presentation, and a brief review of the literature on its epidemiology, histologic types, and outcomes in the paediatric population. **WAJM 2023; 40(6): 619–622.**

Keywords: Nasopharyngeal carcinoma, Paediatric, Low resource setting.

RÉSUMÉ

Le carcinome nasopharyngé (CNP) est une tumeur maligne provenant de l'épithélium du nasopharynx. Il s'agit d'une tumeur rare à l'échelle mondiale, mais dont la prévalence est plus élevée dans certaines populations associées à l'endémicité du virus d'Epstein-Barr. Dans les pays en développement, elle est généralement observée à un stade tardif, principalement en raison d'un mauvais comportement de recherche de soins, des coûts de santé et des erreurs de diagnostic dues à ses symptômes vagues et ambigus. L'issue de la CPN dépend fortement du stade du diagnostic et de l'accès au traitement adéquat, ce qui peut s'avérer difficile dans les pays à faibles ressources où les soins sont payés de leur poche.

Nous rapportons trois cas de carcinome nasopharyngé, leur présentation et une brève revue de la littérature sur l'épidémiologie, les types histologiques et les résultats dans la population pédiatrique. **WAJM 2023; 40(6): 619–622.**

Mots-clés: Carcinome nasopharyngé, population pédiatrique, faible niveau de ressources

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