

## Intracranial Dural Chondroma: Case Report and Review of Literature

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### Abstract

Intracranial chondromas are slow-growing benign tumors originating from embryonic rests at the sphenothmoidal region and sometimes can originate from the falx, convexity but rarely from the dura. We present the case of a 38-year-old patient with moderate to severe headaches, doing well after total removal of the lesion. Complete surgical removal of dural chondroma had shown to improve the patient's neurologic status.

**Keywords:** Intracranial Chondroma; Dural Tumor; Management; Case Report

### 1. Introduction

Intracranial dural chondromas are extremely rare, benign slow-growing cartilaginous tumors mostly originating from embryonic rests at the sphenothmoidal region and sometimes can originate from the falx [1]. They occur intracranially in rare cases with an estimated incidence of 0.2% to 0.5% of all intracranial neoplasms [2]. On the contrary, Connelly et al [3] described less than 30 reported cases in 2018 and found that these lesions can rarely be seen in the parasellar region, at the falx, or arising from the dura convexity [4].

The tumors showed calcification in 88.2% of cases on CT-Scans and hypointense on T1WI (78.9%), mixed intense on T2WI (55.6%), and inhomogeneous enhancement without dural tail sign after administration of gadolinium (95.2%). They were almost all misdiagnosed for meningiomas preoperatively [5].

We report the case of a 38-year-old man successfully treated for intracranial dural chondroma and discussed the differential diagnosis, management, and outcome of this uncommon pathology with the review of existing literature.

### 2. Case Presentation

#### 2.1. Patient information

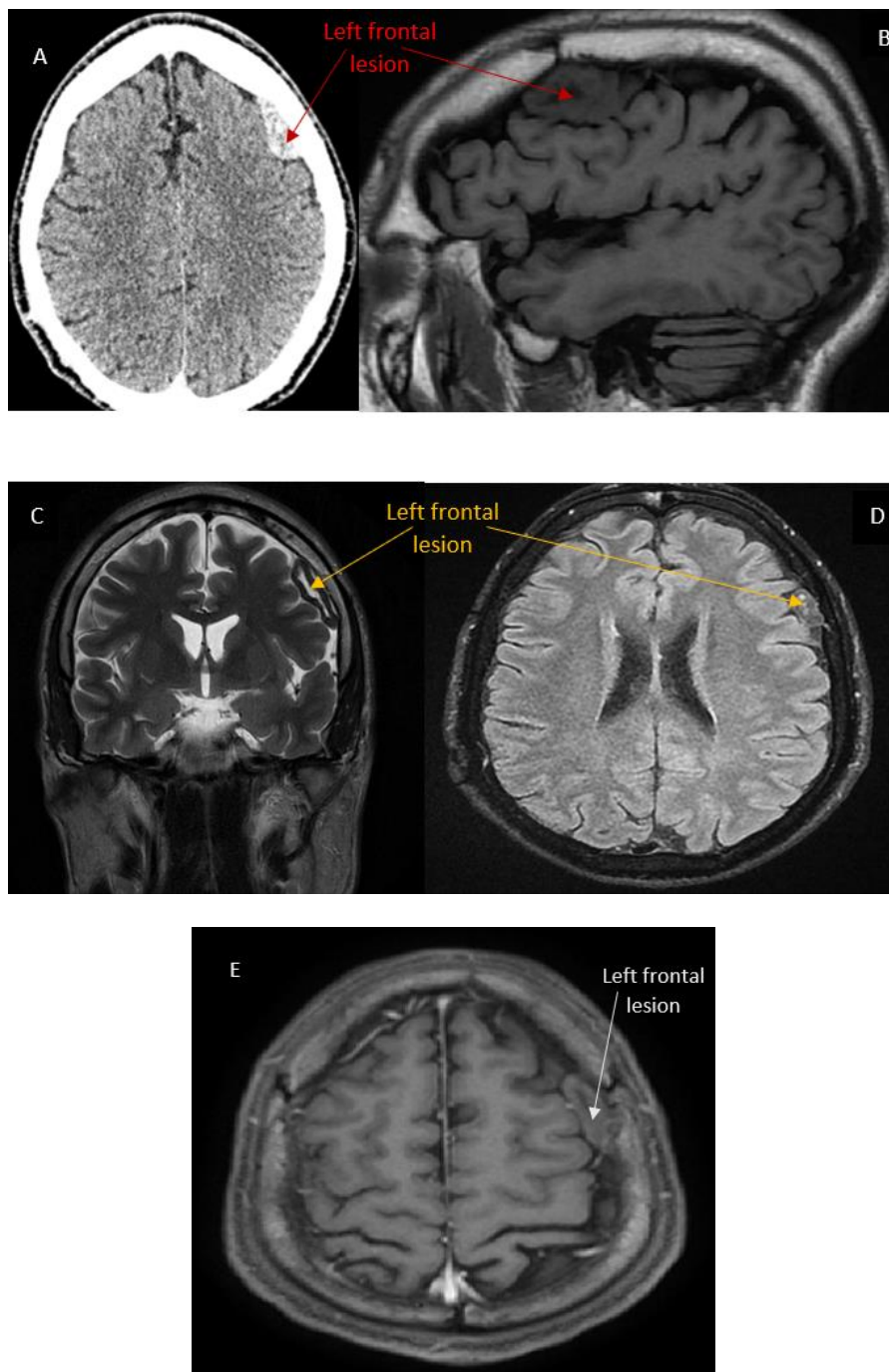
A 38-year-old man was admitted to our department for progressive headaches of moderate to severe intensity, for the past five months, without other associated signs. His past medical history was unremarkable.

#### 2.2. Clinical findings

The patient was conscious with a Glasgow Coma Scale of 15, without sensory-motor deficits, no fever, and neither seizure was found. Other clinical signs were unremarkable.

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### 2.3. Diagnostic assessment



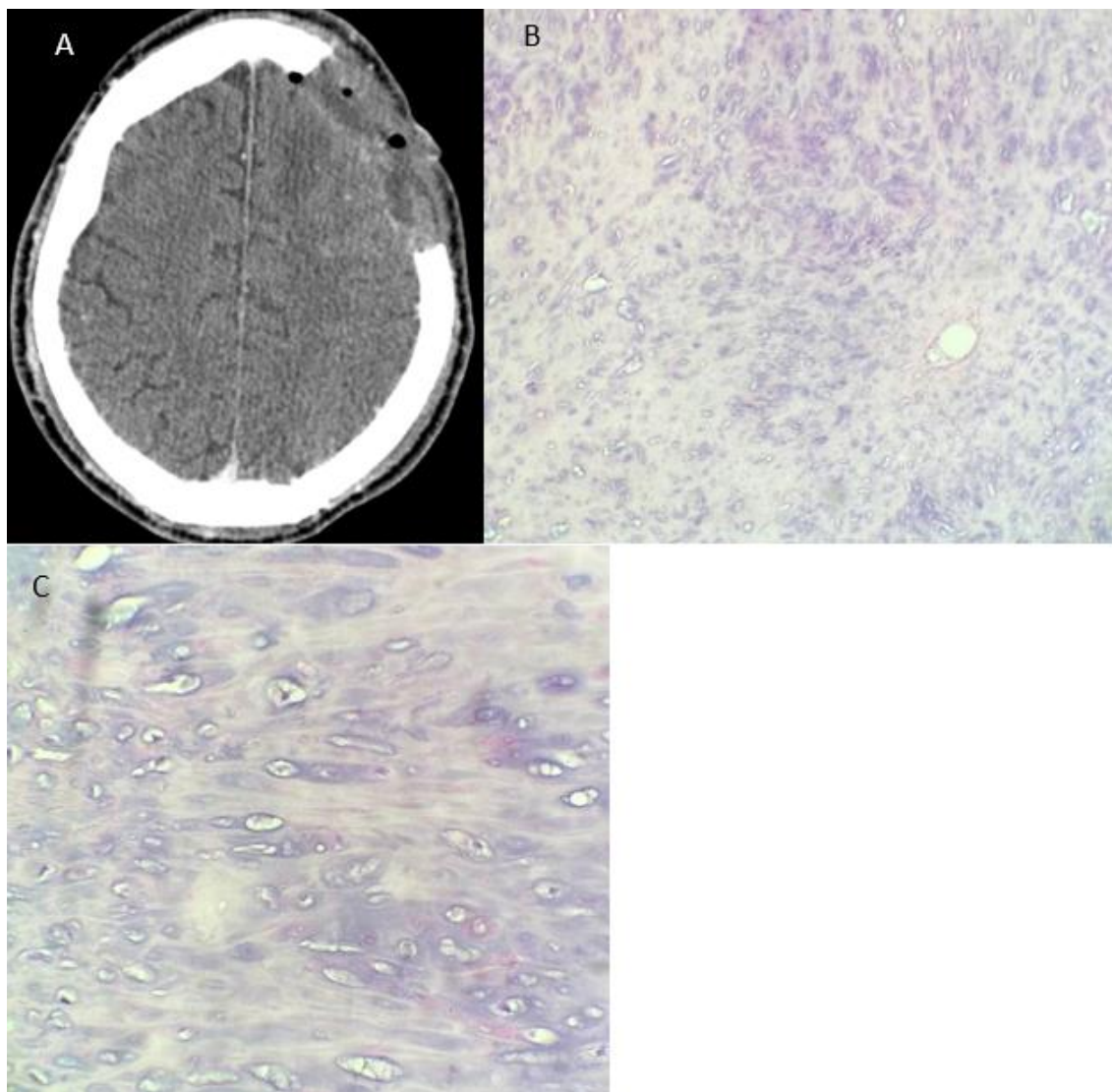
**Figure 2** Pre-operative CT-Scan and MRI showing the intracranial dural chondroma

Cerebral CT axial section shows a unique left frontal extra-axial lesion, slightly spontaneous hyper dense, measuring 30,8 x10,3mm, without mass effect (**figure 1A**) Subsequent brain MRI demonstrated a T1 Weighted hypointense, in the center of the lesion and isosignal in the periphery T2 Weighted hyperintense in the center of the lesion, surrounded by hyposignal with frontal compression opposite. On T1 Gado hyposignal in the center and isosignal in the periphery of the lesion (**Figure 1: B, C, D, and E**). With these characteristics, we first thought of a meningioma.

### 2.4. Therapeutic intervention

The patient underwent surgery. The lesion was macroscopically completely removed through a right frontal craniectomy. We found a grayish hard and spongy lesion that was not adherent to any intracranial structures, thus, easily removable. The material was then sent to the laboratory for histology showing high-density cartilage proliferation

[HEx20] (**Figure 2B**), and chondrocytes of variable size with sometimes binucleated nuclei surrounded by a clear halo (HEx40) (**Figure 2C.**)



**Figure 2** Post-operative CT-Scan (A) and the pathological anatomy slides (B & C)

### 2.5. Follow-up and outcome

After one week of follow-up, the patient was doing well, and headaches-free. Cerebral CT six months later showed a total removal of the dural chondroma with no evidence of local recurrence (**Figure 2A**).

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### 3. Discussion

Intracranial dural chondromas is a rare phenomenon and benign neoplasm, accounting for less than 1% of all intracranial lesions. In the literature, the age of diagnosis was between 20 and 60 years [6]. In this study, we report the case of a 38-year-old man. The clinical presentation of intracranial chondromas depends on their location and includes headache, seizures, and focal neurologic deficits [6,7].

The preoperative diagnosis is challenging. Differential diagnostic problems arise with other intracranial tumors, particularly meningiomas at the convexity. On magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), the chondroma appears multilobed with low to moderate signal intensity on T1-weighted imaging and signal hyperintensity on T2-weighted imaging [8–10]. This radiological characteristic was similar to our case. Some authors hypothesized that the development of CDC might be related to mesenchymal stem cells in the cranial suture. This was particularly observed in our case, the lesion developed under coronal suture. It is important to distinguish chondromas from meningiomas, with similar MRI

imaging features, T1 hypodense and T2 hyperdense [11,12]. Typically meningiomas showed avid homogenous contrast enhancement, and an enhancing dural tail [13,14]. On CT, the meningiomas and chondromas are typically slightly hyperdense. In addition, the meningioma is often associated with bone remodeling (hyperostosis); Which is not a feature of dural chondromas.

Surgery of chondromas is not difficult because of the avascularity of the tumor and lack of invasion into the surrounding structures. But the insidious slow-growing aspect of the lesion is the trickiest and over time, makes it becomes clinically sound. Complete resection of tumors is the best mode of treatment, especially in cases of chondroma dural convexity with clear margins such as ours. After these tumors were removed, no recurrence was reported and a satisfactory long-term prognosis was obtained [15].

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#### 4. Conclusion

Intracranial dural chondroma constitutes a rare, benign, slow-growing tumor. Their imaging characteristics are nonspecific to differentiate from meningioma or other entities. The definitive diagnosis requires a histopathological examination. Complete surgical excision with resection of dural attachment is the treatment of choice.

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#### Compliance with ethical standards

##### *Disclosure of conflict of interest*

The authors have nothing to disclose

##### *Submission statement*

This manuscript is original and has not been submitted.

##### *Statement of informed consent*

Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.

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