

Inoperable poorly differentiated SCC to vertex of scalp progressing into sagittal sinus treated with palliative Cemiplimab

Authors: Dr K Grounds, Dr O Emmanuel.

Singleton Hospital, Swansea Bay University Health Board

Dr Katie Grounds

Kgrounds91@gmail.com

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Data sharing not applicable.

- Advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cScC) is rare, and difficult to treat.
- Cemipilimab, an antiPD-1 monoclonal antibody is the only approved agent for patients with local or metastatic cSCC.
- We report a unique case of inoperable cSCC of the scalp extending into the sagittal sinus, initially diagnosed as cyst.
- It reinforces the importance of early diagnosis, and the role of cemipilimab as a safe and effective 1st line treatment option.

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient to publish this report in accordance with the patient's consent policy.

Figure 1: Axial non contrast CT image of the skull in bone window showing destructive lesion of the parietal and dura component.

Figure 2: Coronal T1 post contrast MRI showing a large destructive, partly cystic mass lesion involving the parietal bone with non-homogenous contrast enhancement

An 82-year-old retired solicitor with a chronic history of unstable sun damaged skin, presented with a 1.5cm lesion on the vertex of his scalp. Clinical and ultrasound evidence demonstrated a retention cyst. The lesion became progressively bigger and ill defined, almost now covering 2cm in diameter. Brain CT scan (Figure 1) revealed an ill defined mixed density mass in the vertex measuring 2.5 x 7.8cm on the dura without breaching it, with extensive lytic destruction of the underlying calvarium. An MRI brain (Figure 2) demonstrated destruction of the parietal bone and infiltration of the dura and superior sagittal sinus by the large lesion on the scalp vertex. Further punch biopsies of the tumour and tricut biopsy revealed poorly differentiated squamous cell carcinoma. Patient is currently receiving the biological monoclonal antibody Cemiplimab¹ with good response.

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Author's contribution:

Katie Grounds : conceived and designed the analysis, collected data, contributed data, performed the analysis, wrote the paper.

Odega Emmanuel : conceived and designed the analysis, collected data, contributed data, performed the analysis.

References

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