Foster Kennedy syndrome in a case of metastatic neuroblastoma

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ABSTRACT

Foster Kennedy syndrome is an ophthalmological condition characterised by unilateral optic atrophy and contralateral optic disc oedema, usually caused by intracranial mass at the anterior cranial fossa. We report a case of metastatic neuroblastoma with Foster Kennedy syndrome. A one-year-nine-month-old boy, presented with a firm, non-mobile swelling measuring 1 x 1cm over his right temple for a month, associated with right eye swelling. He also had intermittent fever throughout, associated with lethargy and poor oral intake. Otherwise, there were no prior head trauma. His right eye was insensitive to light, with slight proptosis and there was relative apparent pupillary defect. Extraocular muscle movements of both eyes were intact. Fundus examination showed slight disc pallor in his right eye with mild disc swelling in his left eye. Brain imaging revealed an extra-axial soft tissue mass at the anterior cranial fossa, thickest at the right frontoparietal region, causing mass effect to the brain, with intracranial and intra-orbital extension, causing compressive optic neuropathy. A tissue diagnosis of neuroblastoma was obtained from multiple biopsies from the mass and bone marrow, with subsequent imaging demonstrating the primary tumour to be adrenal in origin, with bone and marrow metastases, in which he underwent primary tumour resection and chemotherapy. This case highlights the importance of high clinical index of suspicion and proper ocular examination, especially in paediatric population, in which failure to detect more sinister aetiologies may result in life and sight-threatening outcomes.