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Osteoid Osteoma of the Atlas in a boy: Clinical and imaging features - A case report and review of the literature

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Osteoid osteoma is a benign osteoblastic tumor, quite uncommon in the spine. We report a case of an osteoid osteoma involving the atlas in a 6-year-old boy, who presented with suboccipital pain and torticollis. Initial radiological findings were ambiguous as magnetic resonance imaging showed mainly edema of upper cervical soft tissues. The subsequent computed tomography depicted a lesion of left lamina of C1. As conservative treatment failed, the lesion was surgically resected and the patient became pain free. To our knowledge, this is the first case of osteoid osteoma involving the atlas associated with abnormal soft tissue reaction reported in literature.

Recent Publications

1. Meyers SP. MRI of Bone and Soft Tissue Tumors and Tumorlike Lesions – Differential Diagnosis and Atlas. New York, NY: Thieme; 2007
2. Bruneau M, Polivka M, Cornelius JF, George B. Progression of an osteoid osteoma to an osteoblastoma. Spine 2005;30(19): E567–E571
3. Kattapuram SV, Kushner DC, Phillips WC, Rosenthal DI. Osteoid osteoma: an unusual cause of articular pain. Radiology 1983;147(02):383–387

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